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Sena (UBT), NCP, Cong join hands for M'rashtra polls

Sharad Pawar says seat-sharing talks will begin soon

PUNE, 30 JUNE

NCP (SP) Chief Sharad Pawar on Sunday said his party, Congress, and Shiv Sena (UBT) led by Uddhav Thackeray will jointly contest the Maharashtra Assembly polls, due in October this year. Addressing a news conference here, Pawar also said it is the moral responsibility of the major Opposition parties in Maharashtra to protect in the state Assembly polls the interests of smaller allies, which were part of the coalition in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

NCP (SP), Congress and the Shiv Sena (UBT) are constituents of the Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA), which was in power in the state from November 2019 till June 2022 before the collapse of the Thackeray-led government.

Pawar said the Opposition will keep a collective face before the people of Maharashtra.

State Congress President Nana Patole, Sena (UBT) Chief Uddhav Thackeray, and NCP Chief Sharad Pawar in Mumbai on Sunday **PHOTO: PTI**

The former Maharashtra chief minister said talks on seat-sharing in the state have not begun, but will commence soon.

"But like these three parties, the Left parties, Peasants and Workers Party (PWP) were also a part of the coalition but we could not give them seats in the Lok Sabha," he said.

Asked about the state Budget presented on Friday by the Eknath Shinde government, the NCP (SP) chief said, "What happens if you go with an empty pocket in a market? It's a matter of a few days, reality will be seen soon."

- NCP (SP), Congress and the Shiv Sena (UBT) are constituents of the Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA), which was in power in the state from November 2019 till June 2022 before the collapse of the Thackeray-led government.

A monthly allowance of Rs 1,500 to women in the 21 to 60 age group, three free LPG cylinders a year for households, farmer-friendly steps and a stipend of Rs 10,000 per month to youths for skill training were highlights of the Maharashtra government's budget for 2024-25 presented on Friday, four months ahead of the state polls. —*PTI*

BCCI AWARDS PLAYERS

Team India to get ₹125 cr for T20 World Cup win

India defeated South Africa in a tense final **PHOTO: X/@JAYSHAH**

NEW DELHI, 30 JUNE

BCCI secretary Jay Shah on Sunday hailed India's epochal title win in the T20 World Cup and announced a prize money of Rs 125 crore for the team for its monumental feat in the just-concluded ICC showpiece.

India defeated South Africa by seven runs in a tense final at Bridgetown, Barbados, to land their second world title in the T20 format.

"Under the exceptional leadership of Rohit Sharma, this team has shown remarkable resolve and resilience, becoming the first team in the history of the ICC T20 World Cup to win the tournament unbeaten," said Shah in a statement.

"They have faced and silenced their critics with stellar performances time and again. Their journey has been nothing short of inspirational, and today, they join the ranks of the greats."

"The team has showcased exceptional talent, determination, and sportsmanship throughout the tournament. Congratulations to all the players, coaches, and support staff for this outstanding achievement!"

Shah also lauded the team's strong work ethics.

"This team has made us all proud with their dedication, hard work, and unyielding spirit. Led by Rohit, and ably assisted by Virat Kohli, Jasprit Bumrah and others they have fulfilled the dreams and aspirations of 1.4 billion Indians," he said in his statement. —*PTI*

Comedian cancels Hyd show after threats from BJP

HYDERABAD, 30 JUNE

Stand-up comedian Daniel Fernandes' show, which was scheduled to be held on Saturday, was cancelled following a threat issued by BJP MLA Raja Singh over the alleged remarks made by the former against the Jain community. Expressing concern over the situation in a video posted on a social media platform, Fernandes said the show in Hyderabad had to be rescheduled "because of the unrest" caused by his previous show. The video that offended 'people' was taken down and an apology was posted, he said. Raja Singh, MLA from Goshamaha, in a video, alleged that Fernandes made atrocious comedy on the Jain community. —*PTI*

TISS withdraws termination of employees

MUMBAI, 30 JUNE

The Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) on Sunday said it has withdrawn the notices given to 55 teaching and 60 non-teaching staff of non-renewal of contracts and asked them to continue their work. In the circular, the TISS said all faculties and non-teaching staff were appointed under programs funded by Tata Education Trust (TET) and were on a contractual basis with exact programme period. The contracts of the teaching and non-teaching staff at four TISS campuses -- Mumbai, Tuljapur, Hyderabad and Guwahati were due to end on 30 June. —*PTI*

India 1st in world to prepare list of fauna

NEW DELHI, 30 JUNE

India has prepared a checklist of its entire fauna, covering 1,04,561 species, becoming the first country in the world to do so. Launching the "Fauna of India Checklist Portal" on the occasion of the 109th Foundation Day of the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) in Kolkata on Sunday, Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav said the first comprehensive document on the faunal species in India will position the country as a global leader in biodiversity documentation. The document comprises 121 checklists of all known taxa, covering 36 phyla. —*PTI*

Man thrashes couple publicly in Bengal

RAIGANJ, 30 JUNE

The West Bengal Police on Sunday registered a case after a video clip of a brutal assault on a couple allegedly engaged in an illicit relationship went viral.

The man who was seen in the video beating up the two with a bamboo stick was allegedly a local TMC leader in Uttar Dinajpur where the incident occurred following a decision of a 'salishi sabha' (Kangaroo court).

PTI could not independently verify the authenticity of the video which triggered widespread outrage. Islampur Police Superintendent Joby Thomas K said the police have watched the video clip on social media and have registered a case after verification. "We have initiated raids to arrest the culprit and will investigate the reason behind the act promptly," he said.

The video clip shows the man beating up the woman who grimaced in pain. The accused also thrashed a man with the stick.

Opposition BJP and CPI(M) accused TMC of being involved in the incident and termed it "bulldozer justice" under the rule of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee. TMC district president Kaniyalal Agarwal attributed the incident to the couple's alleged illicit relationship, which "did not go down well with the villagers". He said that the party would investigate the episode. —*PTI*

Bystanders watch in silence as man assaults a couple over alleged illicit relationship **PHOTO: PTI**

NEET LEAK PAPER: GODHRA SCHOOL OWNER ARRESTED

GODHRA, 30 JUNE

Central Bureau of Investigation on Sunday arrested the owner of a private school in Gujarat's Godhra in the alleged malpractices in the NEET-UG exam.

Dixit Patel, owner of Jay Jalaram School situated near Godhra in Panchmahal where the exam was conducted, was arrested in the early hours from his residence. Jay Jalaram School was one of the designated centres where the NEET-UG exam was held on 5 May. Patel is the sixth person to be arrested. —*PTI*

Mysuru to get flim city

BENGALURU, 30 JUNE

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Sunday said his government is committed to building a film City in Mysuru.

He also assured the film producers that steps will be taken for a Kannada OTT platform. "Our government gave 100 acres of land in Mysuru. We will build it on the public private partnership basis," he told reporters after inaugurating the new building of Kannada Film Producers' Association. He said a film City for the Kannada film industry was the dream of Kannada matinee idol Dr Rajkumar and his government will make it happen. He blamed previous BJP government for doing nothing for the film City. —*PTI*

Actor Shiva Rajkumar and CM Siddaramaiah at opening of Kannada Film Producers Association building in Bengaluru on Sunday **PHOTO: MOHAMMED ASAD**

Stone inscriptions from 15th-century found in Kolar

DEEPTHI R KOLAR
KOLAR, 30 JUNE

Historian unearthed stone pillar with 15th century inscription in Nadupalli, a village on the outskirts of Kolar. The inscription details the donation of a "kamba seve" (pillar) to a local temple.

This was found by historian and retired joint director of Collegiate Education KR Narasimhan, along with fellow historian Dhanpaul.

The villagers noticed the pillar lying near a temple and sought the expertise of Narasimhan to decipher the inscriptions. The pillar has eight lines of Kannada script, revealing that a Garuda Kamba (a pillar positioned in front of Hindu temples) had been donated to Tirumala, the temple's presiding deity, by a man named Arasale, son of Arasale Bhamoja, on Friday, 4 October, 1442.

The pillar features religious symbols such as the Chakra, Conch, Nama, and Garuda which indicates its association with Vaishnava temple.

PHOTO: SALAR

Following the discovery, the villagers offered prayers and erected the pillar in front of the village temple.

Narasimhan emphasised that such inscriptions hold importance in understanding the area's history and can shed light on the palegars (feudal lords) of bygone eras. He noted that while many inscriptions have been unearthed in the Kolar region, the new discovery in Nadupalli is unique due to its vertical inscription, contrasting with the horizontal stone inscriptions found in the area. —*Salar News*

'TAKE MEASURES FOR SAFETY'

IMD warns of flash floods in K'taka; rains across nation

NEW DELHI, 30 JUNE

Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued moderate flash flood risk in parts of Karnataka, Gujarat, Goa, Kerala for next 24 hours. Heavy rainfall, thunderstorm and lighting are also expected across the country over the next 5 days.

IMD predicts very heavy rainfall in Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal, Kerala, Mahe, South Interior Karnataka on 30 June and 1 July. Lakshadweep, Coastal Andhra Pradesh, Yanam, Rayalaseema, Telangana and Coastal Karnataka are likely to receive heavy rains from 30 June to 3 July. The IMD has issued Orange Alert for heavy rainfall in New Delhi from 1 July to 3 July. It has also issued a yellow alert for heavy rainfall on 30 June, and 4 July in all parts of Delhi. West Bengal, Sikkim, Assam and Meghalaya are also likely to witness rainfall. —*Salar News*

>>>More on Pages 2 & 4

General Dwivedi takes over as new Army Chief

NEW DELHI, 30 JUNE

Gen Upendra Dwivedi, who has vast operational experience along the frontiers with China and Pakistan, on Sunday assumed charge as the 30th Chief of the Army Staff at a time India is facing myriad security challenges including along the Line of Actual Control (LAC).C Gen Dwivedi succeeds Gen Manoj Pande who superannuated after more than four decades of service. He was serving as the Vice Chief of the Army since 19 February. He was serving as the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief of Northern Command from 2022 to 2024. Dwivedi was commissioned into a regiment of J&K Rifles in 1984. The Army said Gen Dwivedi's impetus would be to augment the infusion of critical technologies by leveraging the nation's vibrant, capable and productive technology eco-system to enhance the force's overall capability. —*PTI*

>>>More on Page 4

NEW CRIMINAL LAWS ARE HERE

Curtain falls on 163-yr-old British-era laws

NEW DELHI, 30 JUNE

Three new criminal laws will come into effect across the country from today, bringing widespread changes in India's criminal justice system and ending colonial-era laws.

Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam will replace the British-era Indian Penal Code, Code of Criminal Procedure and the Indian Evidence Act, respectively.

The new laws will bring in a modern justice system, incorporating provisions such as Zero FIR, online registration of police complaints, summonses through electronic modes such as SMS and mandatory videography of crime scenes for all heinous crimes.

According to the new laws, judgment in criminal cases has to come within 45 days of completion of trial and charges must be framed within 60 days of first hearing.

The new laws aim to bring in a modern justice system **PHOTO: PTI**

Statement of rape victims will be recorded by a female police officer in presence of her guardian or relative and medical reports have to come within seven days.

Organised crimes and acts of terrorism have been defined, sedition has been replaced with treason and video recording of all search and seizure have been made mandatory.

A new chapter on crimes against women and children have been added, buying and selling of any child has been made a heinous crime and there is a provision for death sentence or life imprisonment for gang rape of a minor.

Instances of false promise of marriage, gang rape of minors, mob lynching, chain snatching, etc are reported but the current Indian Penal Code did not have specific provisions for dealing with such incidents. Under the new laws, a person can now report incidents by electronic communication, without the need to physically visit a police station. This allows for easier and quicker reporting, facilitating prompt action by the police. To strengthen cases and investigations, it has become mandatory for forensic experts to visit crime scenes for serious offences and collect evidence. The new laws guarantee free first-aid or medical treatment to victims of crimes against women and children at all hospitals. Courts grant a maximum of two adjournments to avoid unnecessary delays in case hearings, ensuring timely justice delivery. —*PTI*

>>>More on Page 3

Veerappa Moily's daughter Hamsa dies at 50

BENGALURU, 30 JUNE

Hamsa Moily, 50, daughter of former chief minister and Union Minister M Veerappa Moily died on Saturday. She was ailing for sometime.

Hamsa is a renowned Bharatanatyam dancer and experimental choreographer known for her innovative approach to the classical dance form. Hamsa pursued her passion for dance from a young age, training under eminent gurus and performing at various prestigious platforms both in India and internationally.

Her artistic journey was marked by a unique blend of traditional and contemporary elements, making her performances stand out in the classical dance community. Hamsa's choreography often explored themes that resonated deeply with her audience, bridging the gap between age-old traditions and modern storytelling. She authored the Hindi play inspired by Mahashweta Devi called 'Kyun Kyun Ladki.' She also acted in 'Sringaram,' a Tamil film, which depicted the life of Devadasis and choreographed a dance for an English play for children written by Rabindranath Tagore. She also acted in plays like, 'The Vagina Monologues' and 'Kamla' directed by Preetam Koilpillai; 'Agnipata' and 'Chitrapata Ramayana,' directed by B Jayashree; and 'Smashana Kurukshetra,' directed by MS Sathyu. She directed, and choreographed "Chinta," an English play based on a story by Mahashweta Devi.

—Salar News

IISC develops tech to transform fatty acids to biofuels

BENGALURU, 30 JUNE

Researchers at Indian Institute of Science have developed an enzymatic platform that can transform naturally abundant fatty acids to valuable hydrocarbons called 1-alkenes, which are promising biofuels.

Given the finite availability and polluting nature of fossil fuels, scientists are increasingly exploring sustainable fuel pathways that involve compounds called hydrocarbons. They show great potential as "drop-in" biofuels, which can be blended and used with existing fuels and infrastructure, according to Bengaluru-based IISc

These hydrocarbons can potentially be synthesised on a large scale using microorganism "factories".

Enzymes that help mass-produce these hydrocarbons are therefore highly sought after. Hydrocarbons are also widely used in polymer, detergent and IISc noted in a press release. In a previous study, the IISc team purified and characterised an enzyme called UndB, bound to the membranes of living cells, especially certain bacteria. *—Salar News*

Doctor assaults colleague over money

BENGALURU, 30 JUNE

The President of the Indian Medical Association (IMA) for Nelamangala taluk, was allegedly assaulted by a fellow doctor at a private hospital in Nelamangala, Bengaluru Rural district on Sunday. The accused Dr Abdul Rahman Sharif, a microbiologist at the hospital, allegedly attacked Prasad following a denied request for financial assistance. Sharif had sought Rs 25 lakh from Prasad to aid his ailing son. When Prasad, in his capacity as IMA President, did not grant the request, Sharif allegedly assaulted him. The attack resulted in injuries to Prasad's left ear and jaw, causing severe pain and hearing issues. The Nelamangala Town Police Station has registered a case against Sharif under Sections 323 (voluntarily causing hurt), 504 (intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of peace), 506 (criminal intimidation), and 34 (acts done by several persons in furtherance of common intention) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC).

—Salar News

Activists demand jobs for Kannadigas, to protest today

The protest is scheduled from 11 am to 4 pm at Freedom Park

BENGALURU, 30 JUNE

The Karnataka Defence Forum (Karave) (KDF) has called for a massive Statewide protest on Monday to demand compulsory employment reservations for Kannadigas in the private sector. The protest, scheduled from 11 am to 4 pm, will take place at Freedom Park in Bengaluru.

KDF protest led by TA Narayana Gowda said the protest aims to implement the recommendations of the Sarojini Mahishi Report, which advocates for employment reservations for Kannadigas in the private sector.

The growing influx of migrants from other States into the City has reportedly led to fewer job opportunities for Kannadigas.

Gowda noted that the KDF is prepared for a large-scale movement. He stated,

PHOTO: PTI

"Simultaneous demonstrations will be observed in all districts across the State. KDF is determined to fight for comprehensive legislation to protect employment for Kannadigas. We must act now to secure our rights and ensure fair employment opportunities for the local population." *—Salar News*

KEY DEMANDS

- Implementing employment reservations in accordance with the Industrial Employment Standing Order Act of 19462. Reserving 70 per cent of C and D grade posts in private firms
- Allocating 80 per cent of other private sector jobs
- Defining a Kannadiga as someone who has lived in the state for 15 years and whose mother tongue is Kannada.
- Revoking the licenses of non-compliant organisations and withdrawing government land and privileges from them, while filing criminal cases against them.
- Ensuring 70 per cent reservation for Kannadigas in State government agencies and public sector jobs.
- Reserving 75 per cent of C and D grade posts in central government departments for Kannadigas.
- Making a 70 per cent reservation for Kannadigas in other central government employment categories.
- Taking action against officers who fail to enforce reservations for Kannadigas as per the proposed law.
- Empowering the Kannada Authority to enforce these laws effectively.

State seeks more NRI quota seats in medical colleges

BENGALURU, 30 JUNE

The State government approached the Centre to introduce a Non-Resident Indian (NRI) quota in government medical colleges. The State has requested the National Medical Commission for the sanction of 15 per cent NRO quota by creating 508 additional supernumerary MBBS seats in 22 government medical colleges in the State from the academic year 2025-26 onwards.

Medical Education Minister Sharan Prakash Patil said despite budgetary allocations and various fees, Karnataka's autonomous medical institutions face funding shortages. Additional funds are essential for maintaining and enhancing the quality of education, infrastructure, and medical equipment, as well as handling patient loads and improving faculty strength and research capabilities.

An annual fee of Rs 25 lakh per NRI student is proposed, expected to generate Rs 127 crore in the first year and Rs 571.5 crore from the fifth year onwards. Patil said that creating an NRI quota within the existing annual intake is not feasible, as it would reduce seats available for local students.

Patil said that Karnataka's veterinary, agriculture, and horticulture universities already have a 15 per cent NRI quota, which helps these institutions to provide better facilities and education through higher fees collected from NRI students. Patil justified the importance of having an NRI quota in colleges by citing UGC guidelines and the National Education Policy 2020, which emphasises the intake of international students for global outreach. The 22 government medical colleges under the Department of Medical Education currently have an intake capacity of 3,450 seats for the 2023-24 academic year.

—Salar News

FEB SEES MOST CASES

City road accidents increase by 5.31% in first half of this year

BENGALURU, 30 JUNE

Bengaluru has seen a rise of 5.31 per cent in road accidents in the first six months of 2024 compared to the same period in 2023. At least 2,040 accidents were reported this year compared to 1937 in 2023.

The data, released by the Bengaluru traffic police, also reveals there were 368 fatal accidents in the first half of 2024, resulting in 376 deaths. At least 1,672 accidents were non-fatal and 1,736 people were injured.

It says February had the highest number of accidents, while April saw the fewest.

The report suggests that the increase in accidents is likely due to a combination of factors, including rising traffic volume and negligent driving.

The Hennur traffic police said jumping traffic signals, rash driving, and wheeling are the cause of accidents.

Uneven roads are also a contributing factor.

To address these concerns, the traffic police department has taken several initiatives. They recently trained 1.5 lakh students on road safety rules and conducted week-long sessions with lectures and demonstrations.

Additionally, AI cameras have been installed in 50 high-traffic areas across the City to enforce traffic regulations and penalise violators. Increased police presence during peak hours is another measure being implemented to manage traffic congestion and prevent accidents.

—Salar News

Dharwad residents demand separate corporation

DHARWAD, 30 JUNE

The citizens of Dharwad have now demanded a separate Municipal Corporation for Dharwad as they continue to feel overlooked in favour of Hubballi.

Dharwad's development has lagged behind expectations despite being part of the twin cities under the Hubballi-Dharwad City Corporation. The residents highlight a significant disparity in government grants allocation and development projects between the two cities.

Urban Development Minister Byrathi Suresh had suggested during a previous Belagavi session that Dharwad might soon receive its own Municipal Corporation. However, no progress has been made since then. With the current session commencing next month, local MLA Arvind Bellad has reiterated the demand, bringing the issue back to the government's attention.

Dharwad residents also point out that while Hubballi benefits from government grants and the Smart City project, Dharwad remains underfunded. The representatives have had limited success in mayoral elections, highlighting the need for separate administrative recognition. Meanwhile, Dharwad meets the criteria to qualify as a Metropolitan Corporation, with a population of at least three lakhs and an annual tax collection of six crore rupees. The city even has a separate office and the only step remaining is an official announcement.

Despite numerous requests to the previous BJP government, little progress was made. Currently, local leaders and the struggle committee remain hopeful that the current session will finally address their demands. *—Salar News*

At least 870 crore will be spend for these two projects PHOTO: PTI

Cantonment, Yeshwantpur railway stns to get new look

BENGALURU, 30 JUNE

South Western Railway (SWR) conducted a review of the ongoing railway station redevelopment projects at Yeshwantpur and Bengaluru Cantonment stations.

The redevelopment projects are designed to elevate these stations into world-class facilities as a part of Indian Railways' broader station modernisation initiative.

Yeshwantpur station is set to be redeveloped at a cost of Rs 367 crore, while Bengaluru Cantonment station is at a cost for Rs 486 crore. These efforts aim to provide state-of-the-art amenities, including enhanced passenger comfort areas, multi-level parking, children's play zones, and platforms for showcasing and selling local products. Minister of State for Railways and Jal Shakti, V Somanna, with other officials, inspected the progress of the projects that aim to transform these stations into world-class facilities.

During the inspection, Somanna instructed railway officials to focus on incorporating more greenery within the stations, expand facilities for passenger rest areas, and ensure high-quality construction for timely completion at Yeshwantpur. He also emphasised the importance of preserving the heritage character of Bengaluru Cantonment station building.

Acknowledging the strategic importance of these stations as a junction connecting suburban railways, mainline routes, and metro lines, he highlighted their role in catering to the region's growing transportation needs.

—Salar News

IMD issues yellow alert across State

BENGALURU, 30 JUNE

Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued 'Yellow Alert' for Karnataka, from 30 June.

The yellow alert has been issued for Dakshina Kannada, Udupi, Uttara Kannada, Chikkamagalur, Kodagu, and Shivamogga districts due to the possibility of heavy rain and thunderstorms.

IMD has predicted widespread rainfall across the State, with particularly heavy showers expected in coastal and hilly areas during the first week of July.

Light to moderate rain is also likely in the northern and southern hinterlands of the State. Wind gusts reaching 30-40 km per hour are expected at isolated places along with thunder and lightning.

While Bengaluru is expected to remain dry with a maximum temperature of 27 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 21 degrees Celsius, the surrounding areas including Bengaluru Rural, Kolar, and Mandya are forecast to receive light to moderate rain.

Possibility of heavy rain and thunderstorms is likely across State from 30 June till first week of July PHOTO: MOHAMMED ASAD

Northern interior regions, encompassing districts like Belagavi, Dharwad, and Haveri, are set to receive moderate rainfall, while lighter showers are predicted for areas such as Gadag, Koppal, and Raichur. In contrast, southern interior districts like Mysuru, Mandya, and Chamarajanagar are also slated for light to moderate rain.

The coastal belt will face a wind gust of 35-45 km per hour, heightening the risk for those venturing out to sea. As a result, IMD has strongly advised fishermen to avoid fishing activities until 3 July.

—Salar News

Police rescue stock market investor from abductors

BENGALURU, 30 JUNE

The Police rescued a stock market investor within 48 hours who was abducted from the busy and upmarket MG Road in Bengaluru for a ransom of Rs five crore. Police arrested two persons while a hunt is on for others said to be involved in the abduction of the stock market investor, who led a lavish life.

The incident took place on 16 June and came to light only on Sunday.The CCTV footage shared by the police has gone viral. It shows around eight to 10 people bundling him in a car even as several vehicles were moving at a fast pace. Azmeera Raju, has been leading a luxurious lifestyle, including luxury cars, foreign trips, and photos with cricketers. He was staying in a private hotel in MG Road, Bengaluru for the past six to seven months. On 16 June night, Raju had gone for dinner with a friend and was followed by the accused in a car. The accused, who took him to Telangana, assaulted him at a farmhouse. They even demanded Rs five crore money and Bitcoin for his release, police said.

Based on a complaint filed by Raju's friend, police registered a case and rescued him.

—PTI

Lokayukta busts RTO racket in Ramanagara, 3 arrested

RAMANAGARA, 30 JUNE

Lokayukta on Friday busted a racket involving regional transport office (RTO) officials in Ramanagara, who caused a loss of hundreds of crore of rupees to the state exchequer.

The RTO officials are accused of taking bribes and re-registering at least 2,000 used vehicles and seized tractors under the same registration numbers.

A complaint was filed on Thursday regarding the racket being run by the Ramanagara RTO. Following this, the Lokayukta officials conducted a raid on Friday and arrested three individuals, including RTO Shivakumar, second-class assistant Rachita Raj, and mediator Satish.

Satish allegedly arranged for used and seized vehicles and re-registered them with buyers. Shivakumar and Raj would then produce fake documents, showing they were purchased by farmers for agricultural purposes.

Tractors used for agricultural purposes are exempt from tax. However, farmers must pay Rs 2,750 per vehicle during registration.

Commercial tractors, on the other hand, must pay Rs 3,000 tax every three months.

Lokayukta officials raided various locations, including the Bengaluru residence of Shivakumar, recovering crore of rupees. They also seized documents of more than 1,500 illegally registered tractors.

—Salar News

A complaint was filed on Thursday regarding the racket being run by the Ramanagara RTO PHOTO: SALAR

MANN KI BAAT

PM lauds woman's Cubbon Park Sanskrit club

BENGALURU, 30 JUNE

For over three years Samashti Gubbi has been striving hard to popularise Sanskrit, one of the oldest languages of India.

Her efforts paid off on Sunday when she received a big boost with praise from Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

In his 'Mann Ki Baat' radio address, Modi specifically referred to Gubbi's silent efforts to make Sanskrit a spoken language.

Speaking about Sanskrit, the Prime Minister said the language has played a big role in the progress of ancient Indian knowledge and science.

"There is a park in Bengaluru - Cubbon Park! In this park, the people here have started a new tradition. Here, once a week, every Sunday, children, youth and elders talk to each other in Sanskrit," Modi said. He also pointed out that many debate sessions are also organised in Sanskrit.

"The name of this initiative is Sanskrit Weekend! It has been started by Samashti Gubbi ji through a website. This initiative which started a few days ago has become very popular among the people of Bengaluru," Modi said.

If we all join such efforts, we will get to learn a lot from such an ancient and scientific language of the world, he noted.

Samashti Gubbi PHOTO: INSTAGRAM/ SAMASTHI GUBBI

Samashti Gubbi's joy knew no bounds when Prime Minister Modi asked countrymen to take a cue from her in promoting the ancient language. "It's a joyous moment for me when the Prime Minister appreciated my efforts. I have been working to popularise Sanskrit for the past many years," Samashti Gubbi told PTI. An MA in Sanskrit, Gubbi has been teaching this language.

She said she started a portal called sthaayi.in in 2021 for the promotion of Sanskrit.

Her 'Sanskrit Weekend' at Cubbon Park had seen the participation of 800 to 900 people.

Is the knowledge of 'Vyakarana' (Sanskrit grammar) a must to learn spoken Sanskrit? To this, Gubbi said, "We don't learn grammar of any language as a child. We just pick up the language."

—PTI

Mann Ki Baat: PM hails voters' faith in Constitution

He made remarks during his first radio address after polls

NEW DELHI, 30 JUNE

In his first Mann Ki Baat r\ adio broadcast after assuming office for a third term, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Sunday that people expressed their unwavering faith in the country's Constitution and democratic process in the "world's biggest" polls in which over 65 crore of them voted.

He thanked people and congratulated the Election Commission (EC) and every person associated with the process as he touched on a host of issues in the nearly 30-minute radio address, which was suspended in February due to the approaching elections.

Modi also cheered Indian athletes who will be competing in the Paris Olympics starting next month, and urged people to use "cheer-4Bharat" hashtag to motivate them.

He said the performance of Indian players in the previous Olympics in Tokyo had won the hearts of every citizen, and the participating athletes have been since whole-heartedly engaged in the preparations for the Paris Olympics.

During the radio address, he spoke of the afforestation initiative named 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' launched on the World Environment Day.

Noting that he also planted a tree in memory of his mother, Modi said, "I am immensely happy to see that the campaign to plant trees in memory of the mother or in her honour is progressing rapidly.On social media, people are sharing pictures of planting trees with their mothers or with their photographs."

He paid rich tributes to tribal freedom fighters Veer Sidhu and Kanhu, who led the Santhal uprising against the British rule in 1855.

Modi congratulated the All India Radio on its Sanskrit bulletin completing 50 years and said the ancient language has played a big role in the progress of Indian knowledge and science. —*PTI*

> **65 crore people expressed their unwavering faith in the country's Constitution and democratic process in the world's biggest polls**
> -Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

Modi also cheered Indian athletes who will be competing in the Paris Olympics next month ***PHOTO: PTI***

Water supply to be normal soon, says Atishi

NEW DELHI, 30 JUNE

The Delhi Water Minister Atishi on Sunday inspected the Chandrawal Water Treatment Plant in the city where flooding due to rain damaged the motors, causing water supply disruption in many parts of Central Delhi. The Minister said that she ordered the officials to repair the pump house as soon as possible. Heavy rains lashed parts of Delhi-NCR on Friday and Saturday, causing waterlogging, traffic jams, rain-related accidents, casualties, and injuries, prompting the government to take measures to tackle the situation. Traffic movement is restricted at Okhla Underpass due to waterlogging, the Delhi Traffic Police said. —*ANI*

Issue white paper on finances: WB Guv to govt

KOLKATA, 30 JUNE

Claiming that West Bengal was facing a financial breakdown, Governor CV Ananda Bose called upon the Mamata Banerjee government to table a white paper on the state's financial situation. Bose's statement came on a day he met Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in New Delhi. "The fiscal situation of West Bengal is confronting multiple fiscal risks and public finance management issues exposing serious lapses on the part of the (state) government. It is very disturbing, shocking, and shattering to see that West Bengal is facing a financial breakdown. Its public finance is in the doldrums," he claimed. During his meeting with Sitharaman, Bose emphasised the need to implement income-generating economic development programmes for those dependent on fisheries sector, Raj Bhavan said. —*PTI*

Sujata Saunik M'rashtra's first woman Chief Secy

MUMBAI, 30 JUNE

Senior IAS officer Sujata Saunik on Sunday took over as Maharashtra's Chief Secretary, becoming the first woman in the state's 64-year-old history to occupy the top post. Saunik, an IAS officer of the 1987 batch, succeeds Nitin Kareer who retired as the chief secretary on Sunday. She will have a year's tenure before retiring in June next year, an official said. Kareer handed over the charge to Saunik at a ceremony held at Mantralaya, the state secretariat in south Mumbai Sunday evening. Before her elevation as the chief secretary, Saunik, whose husband Manoj Saunik is also a former state chief secretary, was the additional chief secretary in the state home department. Saunik has three decades of public policy and governance experience in healthcare, finance, education, disaster management, and peacekeeping at the district, state, and federal levels .—*PTI*

Parliament set to witness stormy debate from today

MPs at the Lok Sabha during the fifth day of the 18th Lok Sabha session, at the Parliament in New Delhi ***PHOTO: ANI***

NEW DELHI, 30 JUNE

Parliament is all set to witness heated debates on a range of issues like the NEET paper leak row, the Agnipath initiative and inflation when both houses reconvene on Monday. Besides the paper leak matter, the Opposition is also likely to raise the issue of unemployment.

In the Lok Sabha, BJP member and former Union Minister Anurag Thakur is set to initiate the debate on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address. The Motion will be seconded by first term Lok Sabha member Bansuri Swaraj, the daughter of BJP stalwart late Sushma Swaraj.

NEET-UG was conducted by the NTA on 5 May with around 24 lakh candidates appearing. The results were announced on 4 June, but they were followed by allegations of question paper leaks in states such as Bihar, besides other irregularities.

Initiating the debate in the Rajya Sabha, BJP member Sudhanshu Trivedi had described Modi as "atulniya" (matchless) and asserted that there was a vast difference in his approach towards dealing with issues facing the nation and the one adopted by the first prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru.

Opposition INDIA bloc members forced adjournment in the Lok Sabha on Friday, when the House was to take up the debate on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address, demanding a dedicated discussion on the NEET issue.

The Rajya Sabha had witnessed vociferous protests during the debate with the opposition demanding a discussion on the NEET row and Leader of the Opposition Mallikarjun Kharge trooping into the Well of the House to join fellow members. —*PTI*

PHOTO: PTI

Cong demands law for reservation over 50% limit

NEW DELHI, 30 JUNE

Congress on Sunday said Parliament should pass a law to enable reservations to exceed the 50-per cent cap, a day after NDA constituent JD(U) demanded that the quota increase in Bihar be included in the 9th schedule of the Constitution.

At a meeting of JD(U) 's national executive here on Saturday, the party expressed concern over a recent Patna High Court verdict striking down the Bihar government's decision to increase the quota for the Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs) and Other Backward Classes (OBC) to 65 per cent from 50 per cent.

In a political resolution passed at the meet, the JD(U) urged the BJP-led Centre to put the state's law under the Constitution's 9th Schedule to rule out its judicial review.

In a post on X, Congress General Secretary Jairam Ramesh said throughout the Lok Sabha poll campaign, the opposition party has been saying that all state laws related to reservation for the SCs, STs and all backward classes should be included in the 9th Schedule, as was the case for a Tamil Nadu law in 1994. —*PTI*

EAM meets Qatar's PM; reviews ties

DOHA, 30 JUNE

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Sunday met Qatar's Prime Minister Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani in Doha and reviewed bilateral relationship, with a focus on political, trade, investment, energy, technology, culture and people-to-people ties.

Jaishankar, who arrived here on a day-long visit, also exchanged views on regional and global issues with Sheikh Mohammed, who also holds the portfolio as Foreign Minister.

"Delighted to meet PM and FM of Qatar @MBA_AlThani_ in Doha this afternoon. Conveyed the greetings and warm wishes of PM @narendramodi to H.H. The Amir and him," Jaishankar said on X.

"Reviewed our bilateral relationship focusing on political, trade, investment, energy, technology, culture and people-to-people ties. Exchanged views on regional and global issues. Appreciate his sharing insights on the Gaza situation," he said. "Look forward to the further enhancement of India-Qatar relations and continued dialogue on issues of mutual interest," he added.

Jaishankar's visit comes four-and-half months after Qatar released eight former Indian Navy personnel, who were sentenced to death in August 2022. —*PTI*

SHOW OF STRENGTH

Soren declares 'rebellion' to drive out 'feudal forces'

BHOGNADIH, 30 JUNE

Former Jharkhand chief minister Hemant Soren on Sunday declared a "rebellion" against "feudal forces", asserting that the Opposition INDIA bloc will drive out the BJP from across the country.

Soren, addressing a rally here on the occasion of 'Hul Diwas', also claimed that the saffron party has turned "jittery" after his release from jail and its leaders are "conspiring" against him again.

"I have stepped out of my home for the first time post my release to address you on 'Hul Diwas'. It is a day of inspiration for all of us. Like the Santhal uprising against the British, we declare 'Hul rebellion' to drive out feudal forces not only from Jharkhand but across the country," he said.

Hemant Soren ***PHOTO: PTI***

The day marks the 1855 Santhal rebellion against the British.

"I was implicated in false cases... The Centre unleashes its probe agencies to harass those who raise their voice against it. It is only two days that I am out of jail, but the BJP is jittery. Top party leaders are frequenting Jharkhand and conspiring against me again," he said.

Soren, who began his speech with 'Hul Johar' - a salutation in Santhal language meaning 'revolutionary solution', claimed that when he started demanding the rights of tribals, including Rs 1.36 lakh crore from the Centre in lieu of coal resources, he was sent behind bars.

He said a legislation will be brought in, which will ensure that benefits of the mines and minerals reach the people of Jharkhand first, contending that resources from the state were "making other places rich while its inhabitants were forced to live in poverty and backwardness".

—*PTI*

INDIA GETS NEW CRIMINAL LAWS TODAY

India's legal framework is getting an overhaul. On 1 July, three new Bills will replace the 160-year-old colonial laws. The government says it is modernisation but Opposition calls it power grab. The Bills were passed in Dec 2023 after over 100 Oppn MPs were suspended. Here is all you need to know about them:

OLD LAWS OUT, NEW LAWS IN

OLD LAW	NEW LAW
Indian Penal Code(IPC), 1860	Bharatiya Naya Sanhita(BNS), 2023
Code of Criminal Procedure(CrCP), 1973	Bharatiya Nagrik Suraksha Sanhita(BNSS),2023
Indian Evidence Act(EA), 1872	Bharatiya Sakshya Adiniyam (BSA),2023

OLD VS NEW: NO. OF SECTIONS

IPC **511** → BNS **358**

CrPC **484** → BNSS **531**

Evidence Act **167** → BSA **170**

NEW WORDS DEFINED

- Sedition (rajdroh) removed and replaced with 'deshdroh' (anti-patriotic acts).
- Terrorism is defined as an act that intends to threaten the unity, integrity, and security of the country.
- Armed rebellion, separatist movements termed organised crimes.
- Transgenders recognised along with male & female.
- Minor replaced with child. Child is now any person below 18 years.
- 'Man' replaced with 'whosoever' to ensure gender neutrality.
- Minor girl replaced with 'children of all gender'.

KEY TAKEAWAYS FROM BNS

- Mob lynching, snatching, cyber and financial crimes, and murders because of race and caste termed as crimes.

- Community service introduced as a punishment.
- 10 years of jail for rape accused instead of 7.
- Death penalty for gangrape of women below 18 years.
- FIR can be filed at any station, no matter where the crime happened.

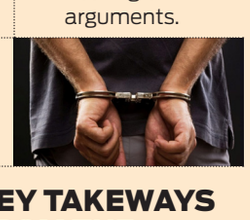
- 10 years jail for sexual intercourse by false promise to marry.
- Abetment of offence from inside or outside India now a crime.
- Arrested person has the right to inform kin.
- Accused and victim must get a free FIR copy.

KEY TAKEAWAY FROM THE NEW BHARATIYA NAGRIK SURAKSHA SANHITA

- Forensic investigation must for serious crimes (punishable by 7+ years jail).

- In rape case, medical report needs to reach the investigator within 7 days.
- Handcuffs can be used for rape, acid attack accused.
- Police can collect fingerprints, voice recordings from people who are not arrested.

- Verdict must within 30-60 days after hearing of arguments.



PROBLEMS WITH LAWS

1 A non-violent speech can be an act of terror under terrorism's new definition.

2 States with regional languages oppose Bills' Hindi names.

3 BNS says sex by a man with his wife, who is not minor, is not rape.

4 Marital rape exception violates women's Right to Equality.

5 Men who rape their separated wives get 2-7 yrs jails instead of 10yrs.

6 Mental illness clause could let criminals off the hook as it includes alcohol & drug abuse.

7 Increased police detention from 14 to 90 days.

8 Gender-neutral provision criminalising adultery absent.

9 No clause to criminalise non-consensual sex between men.

10 Police can choose not to file FIR even if there's evidence.

KEY TAKEWAYS FROM THE BHARATIYA SAKSHYA ADHINIYAM BILL

- Electronic records to be considered as primary evidence.

- In-camera testimony and screens to protect victim.

Research: Kashmira Dutta

Railways to invest Rs 1L cr in Odisha in next 5 years

BHUBANESWAR, 30 JUNE

Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Sunday said new railway projects worth Rs 1 lakh crore will be implemented in Odisha in the next five years. Vaishnaw said this while addressing a felicitation programme organised by Odisha BJP here to felicitate the party's 20 MPs and 78 MLAs elected in recently held Lok Sabha and Assembly polls in the state. Though many mega railway projects have been sanctioned, those were delayed due to delay in land acquisition by BJD government, said Vaishnaw, adding, "Now double engine government is formed and the pace of the railway projects will be accelerated." The Union minister said the allocation to Odisha in the railway budget has been enhanced during the UPA government tenure to over Rs 10,000 crore. *—PTI*

1 more held in 'marksheet scam' in Assam

BARPETA, 30 JUNE

One more person was arrested in connection with the alleged marksheet scam in Assam's Gauhati University, taking the total number of those so far apprehended in the case to 10, police said on Sunday. The accused was arrested from Dalgaon in Darrang district and later brought to Howly Police Station, they said. "By profession, he is an advocate. We are interrogating him at present," a senior official said. Earlier, nine people, including the prime accused, were arrested from multiple locations of Guwahati, Barpeta, Dhubri and Darrang. The alleged scam came to light when authorities of Ganesh Lal Choudhury College (GLC College) of Barpeta Road detected discrepancies in the marks of an undergraduate student. Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, during a press briefing on Thursday, had said six-seven cases surfaced in Barpeta district and the prime accused, who was in charge of the firm responsible for the computerised marksheet system, was arrested. *—PTI*

Man follows Google Maps, drives car into river in Kerala

KASARAGOD, 30 JUNE

Two men, who were on their way to a hospital using Google Maps to find their way, drove their car into a swollen river but had a miraculous escape as the vehicle got stuck to a tree in Kerala's Kasaragod district. The visuals of Fire Force personnel pulling them to safety from the overflowing river in Pallanchi here the other day went viral on social media platforms on Sunday. They could escape and contact the Fire Force personnel only because their vehicle, which was carried away by the water currents, got stuck in a tree. The rescued men said they were on their way to a hospital in neighbouring Karnataka in the early hours the other day and were proceeding using Google Maps. *—PTI*

2 Amarnath pilgrims hurt in accident near J&K

PAHALGAM, 30 JUNE

A van carrying Amarnath pilgrims met with an accident near Chandanwari in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam, leaving at least two persons injured, officials said on Sunday. A van carrying Shri Amarnath Ji Yatris met with an accident near Chandanwari. The pilgrims sustained serious head injuries & were promptly evacuated by the #BSF QRT (Quick Response Team) to a nearby hospital, the Border Security Force (BSF) said. Though BSF did not mentioned the number of people injured in the accident, visuals showed two of the pilgrims, including a woman could be seen admitted in the hospital. Their identities were not confirmed. Earlier in the day, another batch of pilgrims left from the Pantha Chowk base camp for the Amarnath yatra amid tightened security. *—ANI*

HEAVY RAINFALL: IMD ISSUES ALERT

Light to moderate rainfall expected in Southern states

Heavy rain lashed Amritsar on Sunday, leading to waterlogging in several parts of the city *PHOTO: PTI*

NEW DELHI/ AMRITSAR, 30 JUNE

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued an alert for widespread rainfall and thunderstorms across several regions in India on Sunday.

Recent satellite imagery indicates the presence of convective clouds, signalling the possibility of light to moderate rainfall at many locations. Intense spells of rain, accompanied by isolated thunderstorms, cloud-to-ground lightning, and gusty winds, are expected in Punjab and adjoining Himachal Pradesh, southwest and adjoining extreme northwest Madhya Pradesh, east Uttar Pradesh and adjoining extreme north Chhattisgarh, southeast Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, south Gujarat, south Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, south Karnataka, north Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Sikkim, Assam, and Meghalaya, as per the IMD.

In addition to these areas, light to moderate rainfall is anticipated at a few places, with isolated thunderstorms, cloud-to-ground lightning, and gusty winds likely to affect Odisha, Konkan, Goa, south Madhya Maharashtra, Kerala, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Lakshadweep, and the Nicobar Islands.

Earlier this week, the national capital received highest rainfall in 88 years. According to IMD, Delhi experienced 228 mm of rainfall from 8:30 am on 27 June, to 8:30 am on Friday, 28 June. This is the highest 24-hour rainfall in June that the national capital has seen since 1936 when 235.5 mm was recorded. IMD scientist Soma Sen on Saturday said that heavy rainfall is expected in Delhi over the next two days.

Heavy rain lashed Amritsar on Sunday, leading to waterlogging in several parts of the city. Visuals from near the Golden Temple showed cars stuck on the road due to the heavy rains.

—PTI

Assam heavy rain: Brahmaputra water level raises

GUWAHATI, 30 JUNE

Assam is reeling under severe flooding as torrential rains over the past few days have caused the Brahmaputra River to swell, inundating large parts of the state.

According to the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA), the deluge has impacted nearly 1.34 lakh people, including 33,760 children, across seven districts: Kamrup, Karimganj, Dhemaji, Dibrugarh, Cachar, Tinsukia, and Lakhimpur.

The floodwaters have submerged 4,113.27 hectares of crop area and affected 411 villages under 17 revenue circles. The worst-hit district is Cachar, where 67,030 people have been affected, followed by Karimganj with 27,235 people, Dhemaji with 25,947 people, Tinsukia with 9,868 people, and Dibrugarh with 3,857 people.

ASDMA reports that this year's floods have claimed 32 lives across the state. Over 11,000 people are currently taking shelter in 71 relief camps and distribution centers set up by the administration in various flood-hit districts. "The Brahmaputra water level is increasing because of the continuous rains. When the water level increases, it comes to the roads and there is blockage," stated a resident living near the banks of the river.

—ANI

30TH ARMY CHIEF

General Upendra Dwivedi takes over as the 30th Chief of the Army Staff of the Indian Army from General Manoj Pande *PHOTO: ANI*

General Upendra Dwivedi takes charge as Army chief

NEW DELHI, 30 JUNE

Gen Upendra Dwivedi, who has vast operational experience along the frontiers with China and Pakistan, on Sunday assumed charge as the 30th Chief of the Army Staff at a time India is facing myriad security challenges including along the Line of Actual Control (LAC). Gen Dwivedi succeeds Gen Manoj Pande who superannuated after more than four decades of service. He was serving as the Vice Chief of the Army since 19 February. He was serving as the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief of Northern Command from 2022 to 2024. Dwivedi was commissioned into a regiment of J&K Rifles in 1984. The Army said Gen Dwivedi's impetus would be to augment the infusion of critical technologies by leveraging the technology eco-system to enhance the force's overall capability.

"He takes over as the Chief of Army Staff (COAS), at a time when the global geo-strategic environment remains dynamic, with the challenges in the security domain becoming more pronounced due to technological advancements and the ever-changing character of modern warfare," it said.

As the Chief of Army Staff, he will also have to coordinate with the Navy and the Indian Air Force on the government's ambitious plan to roll out theatre commands. *—PTI*

ARMY TO HAVE MADE IN INDIA 4G BASE STATION

NEW DELHI, 30 JUNE

The Indian army has inducted the first-ever indigenous chip-based 4G mobile base station, which it procured from Bangalore-based firm Signaltron through the government e-marketplace portal, a top company official said. Signaltron founder Himamshu Khasnis told PTI that the chip used in the Sahyadri LTE base stations has been developed by Signalchip.

Earlier in 2010, Khasnis and his team founded a fabless semiconductor company Signalchip to make chips for 4G and 5G networks.

"Signaltron has built the entire system indigenously using India's first chips for 4G and 5G networks developed by Signalchip. ," Khasnis said. Signaltron has supplied 20 units to the army and the deployment of the base stations depends on their strategic requirement, Khasnis said. *—PTI*

MEET THE GENERAL

- Dwivedi held the position of the Deputy Chief of the Army Staff since February 2024.2 hours
- He has been decorated with the Param Vishisht Seva Medal, Ati Vishisht Seva Medal and three GOC-in-C Commendation Cards4 to 6 hours
- He will be the command of regiment (18 Jammu and Kashmir Rifles), Brigade (26 Sector Assam Rifles), Inspector General, Assam Rifles (East) and 9 Corps.6 to 8 hours
- Dwivedi engaged in the ongoing negotiations with China to resolve the vexed border issue8 to
- He was also involved in the modernisation and equipping of the largest Army command of the Indian Arm10 to 12 hours

PRIDE PARADE

LGBTQ+ community people take part in a pride parade, in Dehradun on Sunday *PHOTO: PTI*

Many students who cleared SSLC can't read or write: Kerala Minister

ALAPPUZHA, 30 JUNE

At a time when the Kerala government boasts of the remarkable standards of its education system, state Fisheries Minister Saji Cheriyan has made critical remarks about it and said many students who pass the Secondary School Leaving Certificate (SSLC) examinations do not have the skills to write or read properly.

He said earlier it was tough to score the minimum pass mark of 210 but now everybody was clearing the examination.

Saji Cheriyan *PHOTO: PTI*

If anybody fails in the examination, it would be portrayed as the failure of the state government, the minister said, adding that it was good for the government to be liberal in the evaluation for SSLC examinations. But, the present general education minister V Sivankutty, who already made it clear that the practice was not right, is expected to bring changes in it, Cheriyan added.

A pass percentage of 99.69 per cent was registered in the Class 10 examinations in Kerala for the academic year 2023-24 when the results were announced in May. A total of 4,25,563 students cleared the examination for an overall pass percentage of 99.69 per cent, officials said. *—PTI*

Aligarh lynching case: Police book deceased, 8 others

ALIGARH, 30 JUNE

A man killed by a mob here on suspicion of theft has been booked along with eight people on dacoity charge following a complaint by the mother of an accused in the lynching case, officials said on Sunday.

Mohammad Fareed, 35, was lynched at the Mamu Bhanja locality here on the night of 18 June which led to communal tension in the area.

Seven people were booked in the case and six were arrested. On Saturday, Lakshmi Mittal, the mother of Rahul, one of the six accused arrested in connection with the lynching case, lodged a complaint based on which an FIR was registered on the charge of dacoity.

In her complaint, Mittal alleged that on the night of 18 June, Mohammad Fareed alias Aurangzeb barged into her house and tried to molest her before looting valuables.

She claimed that when her family members chased Fareed, he lost balance, fell from the stairs and later died of the injuries, a police official said. Besides Fareed, she also named Salman, Mohamad Zaki and six others in her complaint.

Based on her complaint, police have lodged a case under IPC sections 354 and 395 against the deceased and the other accused. *—PTI*

11 Bangladeshi intruders including women arrested at Agartala railway station en route to Delhi *PHOTO: PTI*

11 illegal Bangladeshi immigrants held in Tripura

AGARTALA, 30 JUNE

- Based on specific inputs about some Bangladeshi nationals who had crossed the international border in Tripura's Sepahijala district and would board a train at Agartala railway station, railway police started searching for them on Saturday evening

Eleven Bangladeshi nationals were arrested from Agartala railway station for entering the country without any valid travel document, police said on Sunday.

Based on specific inputs about some Bangladeshi nationals who had crossed the international border in Tripura's Sepahijala district and would board a train at Agartala railway station, railway police started searching for them on Saturday evening.

"We have detained 11 people - five women and six men - from Agartala railway station and took them to Agartala GRP police station for questioning," Officer in Charge (OC), Tapas Das told PTI.

Das said during questioning the Bangladeshi nationals could not produce any valid travel document to enter Indian territory.

Preliminary investigation revealed, that the 11 Bangladeshi nationals were planning to go to Chennai, Mumbai and Kolkata for earning livelihood, he said.

"We can't rule out the possibility of human trafficking attempts. We have started an investigation into the case", he said.

Earlier on 27 June two Bangladeshi nationals were arrested from Agartala railway station for illegally entering Indian territory. *—PTI*

AT KUNO PARK

Cheetahs get ointment treatment to beat infection

SHEOPUR, 30 JUNE

In an effort to protect the cheetah population at Kuno National Park (KNP) in Madhya Pradesh, a new initiative has been launched to apply foreign ointment to their fur, an official said.

The ointment, imported from South Africa, is being applied to all 13 adult cheetahs in the park to ensure their well-being during the rainy season. "A spread over an area of 1,235 sq km including buffer zone in Sheopur district," he said, adding "the effect of the ointment lasts for three to four months".

This measure aims to prevent a recurrence of septicemia, a deadly bacterial infection that claimed the lives of three cheetahs last year.

This measure aims to prevent a recurrence of septicemia, a deadly bacterial infection that claimed the lives of three cheetahs last year *PHOTO: PTI*

The cursorial predators at the KNP, brought to India as part of a translocation project from South Africa and Namibia, are receiving Anti Ecto Parasite Medicine to combat the threat of septicemia.

"We have started applying the 'Anti Ecto Parasite Medicine' (anti maggot) imported from South Africa to the cheetahs by immobilising them with the onset of the rainy season," KNP Director Uttam Sharma said.

Despite facing setbacks in the past year, Kuno National Park remains committed to the conservation and preservation of cheetahs in India. The loss of three cheetahs to septicemia underscored the need for proactive measures to safeguard the remaining population.

However, he did not share details of the immunisation plan duration and the date it started but confirmed that the KNP lost three cheetahs to septicemia, caused by blood poisoning due to bacterial infection, last year.

The dedicated team at KNP is determined to carry out the immunisation process efficiently. *—PTI*

Tigress gives birth to 3 cubs, including 1 white, in Gwalior zoo

GWALIOR, 30 JUNE

A tigress has given birth to three cubs, including one white-coloured, at a zoo in Madhya Pradesh's Gwalior city, an official said. The cubs and their mother are in isolation and being monitored as per guidelines of the National Tiger Conservation Authority, zoo's in-charge Upendra Yadav told reporters here on Saturday. The tigress, named Durga, gave birth to the three cubs at the Gandhi Prani Udyan on Friday night, he said. Last year, Durga gave birth to two cubs, the official said. With the latest addition of three cubs, the number of tigers in the zoo, run by the Gwalior Municipal Corporation, has gone up to nine, he said. *—PTI*

MONEY DOWN THE BRIDGE

An under-construction bridge collapsed in Jharkhand's Giridih, making it the fifth incident in the past 12 days. These incidents have led to questions being raised over the quality of public works. Four of these five bridges were in Bihar

PHOTO: PTI

T'gana weavers resort to 'suicide' over debt trap

Sircilla, located in Telangana's Karimnagar is now home to about 10,000 powerlooms, down from the 27,000 in the past.

PHOTO: PTI

The 'recent' suicide' of a weaver at Sircilla in Telangana has brought to the fore the alleged lack of work and adequate income in this textile hub, with the issue leading to a war of words between Opposition BRS and Congress.

Kudikyala Nagaraju recently died by suicide as he was unable to repay his debts and this came as a reminder of the tragedy of weavers ending their lives in the past.

While it is being claimed 10 weavers have ended their life so far this year, the government has pegged the number at six, even as the BRS attacked the ruling Congress over the matter.

Nagaraju, 47, a weaver, took his life by consuming acid at Sircilla recently.

"My husband borrowed some amount and failed to repay the lenders. He did not have the livelihood to take care of me and our two sons," Nagaraju's wife Lavanya told PTI.

Similar is the story of Adicherla Sai Kumar, 25, who committed 'suicide' in April this year as he was unable to repay the money he borrowed.

"My brother was working in a powerloom in Sircilla. He had no work for some time due to the closure of powerlooms in the area. He borrowed money and failed to repay it," said Mahender, sibling of the deceased.

Sircilla, located in Telangana's Karimnagar is now home to about 10,000 powerlooms, down from the 27,000 in the past. About 9,000 to 10,000 families are dependent on them for livelihood, CITU's Powerloom Workers Union State President Musha Ramesh said.

The workers had orders during the previous government to make sarees and school uniforms which used to be distributed to the poor free of cost.

But, the powerloom workers are without work now, he claimed.

They resort to taking debts to meet their expenses and face distress when they are unable to repay the loans, Ramesh said.

According to him, 10 weavers took the extreme step in Sircilla district during this year.

The suicide of Kudikyala Nagaraju also led to a war of words between BRS Working President KT Rama Rao, who represents Sircilla in the state Assembly, and Telangana Textiles Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao.

In an open letter addressed to Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, Rama accused the government of being responsible for the alleged suicides of weavers due to lack of work.

The deaths of weavers are not mere suicides but 'government-induced deaths', he charged.

He too claimed that about 10 weavers have ended their lives in recent times due to lack of work and income.

The BRS government had ensured livelihood to the weavers by placing orders to make school uniforms and also sarees which were given to the poor on the occasion of festivals, he said.

Rama alleged that Congress government's failure to continue the welfare schemes and orders for work initiated by the previous administration has resulted in weavers losing their livelihood and facing severe financial distress.

He demanded an ex-gratia of Rs 25 lakh each to the kin of the deceased weavers.

Rama urged the government to immediately resume and implement the welfare schemes and support programmes implemented by the previous BRS regime, the powerloom subsidies and orders for school uniforms to boost the weavers' employment.

State Minister Nageswara Rao hit back at Rama, alleging that the previous BRS government had thrown the weavers into a crisis by not paying them for the orders it had placed.

Congress government is clearing the pending dues of the BRS regime and it is taking planned steps to improve the living standards of weavers, he said in a release.

It would take steps to investigate the suicides of six weavers who ended their lives since January this year and to pay ex-gratia to them, the minister said. Highlighting the steps taken by his government, Rao said the government decided to use the budget of Rs 400 crore for modernisation of handlooms and powerlooms.

The government, since it assumed office in December last year, has so far released Rs 53 crore to purchase clothes from the primary handloom cooperative society members, he said. It has also released Rs 33.23 crore as 10 per cent yarn subsidy to the weavers since it came to office, the minister said. A large number of 'suicides' of weavers had been reported from Sircilla in the past as well.

If you need emotional support, please call Tele Manas at 14416, SAHAI at 080-25497777.

—PTI

LETTERS write to us at salarenglishdigital@gmail.com

SALAR سالار

'Lack of stroke awareness puts children at risk'

The lack of awareness when it comes to paediatric stroke is so low and people are often stunned to hear that children can get stroke. Actors like Amitabh Bachchan need to talk about it to create awareness, said Dr Nirmal Surya, president of Indian Stroke Association (ISA).

Speaking at a press conference after the inauguration of the second national paediatric stroke conclave, he said, "Stroke is preventable, but globally paediatric stroke is the sixth leading cause of death in children."

According to Dr Surya, lack of awareness is the biggest challenge that paediatric neurologists world over have to overcome.

"In India, the situation is even worse. When people are not made aware of the possibility of stroke in children, time is lost on misdiagnosis. Time is of essence because stroke can often be treated with injection if the patient is brought within four and half hours," he added.

Stroke can occur even on the day one of the birth, reiterated Dr Minal V Kekatpure, paediatric neurologist at Narayana Health, Bengaluru.

According to her, in fact, paediatric stroke is more common among neonates than older children.

"In 1 lakh, there are about 25 neonates' cases as against 12 involving older children," added Kekatpure.

Dr Pratibha Singhi, president of International Child Neurology Association, said often parents do not realise that the child is suffering from a stroke.

"We have had instances where parents brought their child seeking remedy for 'not very good at writing' and on checking we found that the child actually had suffered a stroke and is unable to move the hand properly," added Singhi.

According to Dr K P Vinayan, Paediatric Neurology Sub Section Chair of Indian Academy of Neurology, even adults suffering from stroke often are missing the window of opportunity to treat and face the increased chances of disability, if not death, in India.

"There is such a lack of awareness when it comes to stroke. This needs to be set right first," he added.

Visiting expert from Bern, Dr Maja Steinlin, vice-president of International Paediatric Stroke Organisation, also agreed with the Indian doctors about the absolute lack of awareness among the public.

"Even in western countries, awareness is a big problem," she said, adding that India is not lagging behind because it does not have qualified people to treat stroke, but because people are not availing treatment on time.

One of the biggest reasons for organising the conclave is to bring about this awareness, said Dr Arvind Sharma, secretary of ISA.

"We try to get more people on board, tell paediatricians and even general practitioners to refer patients to stroke ready hospitals if they show certain symptoms," added Dr Sharma.

He also said there are about accredited 13 primary centres in India that are equipped to deal with stroke and about 30 stroke ready but not accredited facilities.

"We need about 1,000 accredited hospitals at least to deal with this disorder in India," added Sharma.

According to Dr Vikram Huded, organising chairman of the conclave and interventional neurologist at Narayana Health, Bengaluru, even in the adult stroke, only 1 per cent to 2 per cent patients avail treatment on time, and the statistics get even worse for paediatric stroke.

"Understanding of paediatric stroke has advanced a lot, so it is a pity that we are losing out because of lack of awareness," said Huded.

At the conclave, experts from around the world will also be sharing knowledge on the ways to collaborate to increase awareness as well as infrastructure.

"For instance, in the United States and Canada, there are apps that people can use to get immediate help. Paediatric neurologists across the country are connected and help each other through this app. Such facilities in India will increase the chances of stroke patients drastically," said Dr Surya.

Agreeing that in India there are not many paediatric neurologists, he insisted that the bigger problem right now is the fact that there are not enough patients to even avail the existing facilities.

"In a year, we should be doing 2.5 lakh thrombosis, but we do only 2,000 to 3,000. That is a huge gap to fill," added Dr Sharma.

"So, if you ask me, I would say awareness is what we need most urgently," said Dr Surya. *—PTI*

Doctors say that stroke can occur even on the day one of the birth

PHOTO: PTI

Tuluvers rejoice as Google adds Tulu to its translation services

Google added Tulu to its translation services on 27 June

PHOTO: PIXABAY

In a significant stride towards preserving and promoting regional languages, Google has added Tulu to its translation services.

The Tulu translation services was announced by Google on 27 June.

Tulu joins 110 new languages on Google Translate, marking a historic moment for the millions of people who speak this language. This addition allows users to easily translate Tulu words and phrases, enhancing the accessibility and understanding of this cherished language.

The Tulu-speaking community, which has long sought greater recognition for their language, is celebrating this achievement as a major honour, especially since Tulu is not officially recognised in the Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution.

While the initial translations for Tulu on Google Translate may contain some errors, the system is expected to improve over time. Users are encouraged to provide accurate translations in the feedback section to help refine and enhance the service's accuracy.

Google's inclusion of Tulu leverages advanced Natural Language Processing (NLP) technology. This involves a statistical-based method that relies on large amounts of data. For Tulu, approximately 2 million translated sentences, including nouns and verbs, were fed into the system, allowing the machine to learn and improve its translations progressively.

Expressing satisfaction over the new global acclaim of the Tulu language, Tharanath Gatty Kapikad, president of Karnataka State Tulu Academy, told PTI that the Tuluva people must make extensive use of this new global service and take forward the literary heritage of Tulu language.

He said it is natural that there could be some misgivings in translating from one language to another. In such cases, he advised the Tuluvas to use the feedback button on Google translator to correct such misgivings.

Former Karnataka chief minister M Veerappa Moily had been a strong votary of inclusion of Tulu language into the Eighth schedule of the Constitution and had taken a delegation to meet various Central leaders to include Tulu language into the Eighth Schedule.

He expressed happiness over the new global recognition given to Tulu language by Google through creating a translation interface with other languages. That means Tulu has gained much more ground on a global scale.

Even non-Tulu speakers in Karnataka may have encountered Tulu phrases through popular Kannada movies such as 'Ulidavaru Kandanthe,' 'Garuda Gamana Vrishabha Vahana,' and 'Kantara,' as well as the Hindi movie 'Welcome.'

Despite some initial challenges and the need for ongoing refinements, the inclusion of Tulu in Google Translate is a milestone. It paves the way for greater preservation and broader usage of the language. This global recognition not only brings pride to the Tulu-speaking community but also ensures that Tulu remains relevant and vibrant in the digital age.

Tulu has a script of its own but not popularised. The Dharmasthala Museum for art has displayed Tulu script.

Efforts are on at the national level to include Tulu into the Eighth Schedule of the constitution. Tulu is also a language of entry for TOEFL examination.

Kuppam University in Andhra Pradesh has a chair for Tulu development. Tuluva scholars like Prof. Viveka Rai, late Amrut Someshwara and late K S Haridas Bhat recognised Tulu as one of the 'Pancha Dravida Bhasha' - Tamil, Malayalam, Telugu, Kannada and Tulu.

—PTI

- Google's inclusion of Tulu leverages advanced Natural Language Processing (NLP) technology. This involves a statistical-based method that relies on large amounts of data. For Tulu, approximately 2 million translated sentences, including nouns and verbs, were fed into the system, allowing the machine to learn and improve its translations progressively.

PHOTO: X/@TURBOLEAKS

Hungary's populist Orbán to take over EU presidency

BUDAPEST, 30 JUNE

When Hungary takes over the helm of the European Union on 1 July, many politicians in Brussels will have the same thing on their minds: whether populist Prime Minister Viktor Orbán will use the role to further his reputation as the bloc's main spoiler. Orbán in recent years has seemed to relish opportunities to block, water down or delay key EU decisions, routinely going against the grain of most other leaders on issues like the war in Ukraine, relations with Russia and China, and efforts to defend democracy and the rule of law. His public opposition to EU policies and stances has long frustrated his partners in the bloc and pushed him to the margins of the continent's mainstream. *—AP*

6 dead due to heavy rains in Pak's Balochistan

ISLAMABAD, 30 JUNE

The death toll in Pakistan's Balochistan due to incessant rains has risen to six, leaving 25 others injured in several incidents across the province, Geo News reported on Sunday. The N-70 highway which connects the province to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is closed for traffic, an official from the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) said. The PDMA said that several vehicles are stranded at Dhana Sar due to landslides caused by heavy rains in eastern Balochistan's Koh-e-Suleman mountain range. Zhob and Qilla Saifullah administrations have been directed to stop the flow of traffic, Geo News reported. PMDA added that teams have been dispatched for rescue and relief operations regarding the stranded traveller. *—ANI*

Taiwan detects 5 Chinese aircraft near its territory

TAIPEI, 30 JUNE

Taiwan's Ministry of National Defence (MND) said on Sunday that five Chinese military aircraft and seven naval vessels operating around Taiwan from 6 am (local time) on Saturday to 6 am (local time) on Sunday. According to Taiwan MND, five of the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) aircraft entered Taiwan's northern, central, Southwest, and Southeast Air Defence Identification Zone (ADIZ). In response to China's action, Taiwanese armed forces have monitored the situation and responded accordingly. China has increased its military activities around Taiwan, including regular air and naval incursions into Taiwan's Air Defense Identification Zone (ADIZ). *—ANI*

Lab-grown meat maker hosts party in Miami

MIAMI, 30 JUNE

As Florida's ban on "lab-grown" meat is set to go into effect next week, California-based Upside Foods hosted a last hurrah — at least for now — with a cultivated meat-tasting party in Miami. Upside Foods hosted dozens of guests on Thursday evening at a rooftop reception in the city's Wynwood neighborhood, known for its street art, breweries, nightclubs and trendy restaurants. "This is delicious meat," Upside Foods CEO and founder Uma Valeti said. "And we just fundamentally believe that people should have a choice to choose what they want to put on their plate." Earlier this year, Florida and Alabama banned the sale of cultivated meat and seafood, which is grown from animal cells. Other states and lawmakers also are looking to restrict it. *—AP*

Far-Rights, Nationalists lead pre-election polls in France

Macron is expected to name National Rally Prez as PM

PARIS, 30 JUNE

Voters across mainland France began casting ballots on Sunday in the first round of an exceptional parliamentary election that could put France's government in the hands of nationalist, far-right parties for the first time since the Nazi era.

The outcome of the two-round election, which will wrap up on 7 July, could impact European financial markets, Western support for Ukraine, and how France's nuclear arsenal and global military force are managed.

Many French voters are frustrated about inflation and economic concerns, as well as President Emmanuel Macron's leadership, which they see as arrogant and out-of-touch with their lives. Marine Le Pen's anti-immigration National Rally party has tapped and fuelled that discontent, notably via online platforms like TikTok, and dominated all preelection opinion polls.

A new coalition on the left, the New Popular Front, is also posing a challenge to the pro-business Macron and his centrist alliance Together for the Republic.

There are 49.5 million registered voters who will choose 577 members of the National Assembly, France's influential lower house of parliament, during the two-round voting.

After a blitz campaign marred by rising hate speech, voting began early in France's overseas territories, and polling stations opened in mainland France at 8 am on Sunday. The first polling projections are expected at 8 pm, when the final polling stations close, and early official results are expected later Sunday night.

The voting is taking place during the traditional first week of summer vacation and absentee ballot requests were at least five times higher than in the 2022 elections.

France President Emmanuel Macron and his wife Brigitte after voting in Le-Touquet-Paris-Plage, northen France on Sunday *PHOTO: PTI*

- Macron called the early election after his party was trounced in the European Parliament election earlier in June by the National Rally which has historic ties to racism and antisemitism and is hostile toward Muslims

Macron called the early election after his party was trounced in the European Parliament election earlier in June by the National Rally, which has historic ties to racism and antisemitism and is hostile toward France's Muslim community. It was an audacious gamble that French voters who were complacent about the European Union election would be jolted into turning out for moderate forces in a national election to keep the far right out of power. *—AP*

Sderot city was attacked last year *PHOTO: ANADOLU AGENCY*

Israel announces 5,000 housing units in Gaza

TEL AVIV, 30 JUNE

Israel's Ministry of Construction and Housing has initiated a plan to establish a new urban district near the train station in the city of Sderot located just north of Gaza. It was one of the cities attacked during the 7 October attack.

The plan includes 5,000 new housing units, including apartments for students, about 370,000 square meters for commerce and employment, about 350,000 square meters for public buildings and about 40 acres of open spaces.

The plan sees the complex surrounding the train station as a "central and significant focal point" in the region and strengthens it through the addition of residential, employment and commercial areas around the station.

Also, it emphasises a public space with an active front to encourage walking and community activity along the main streets, and creates a new urban fabric connecting Sapir College to the south, to the train station to the north and an interchange addition at the main entrance to the city. *—ANI*

Ease strikes on Israel: US warns Hezbollah

WASHINGTON, 30 JUNE

US, European and Arab mediators are pressing to keep stepped-up cross-border attacks between Israel and Lebanon's Iran-backed Hezbollah militants from spiraling into a wider Middle East war that the world has feared for months. Iran and Israel traded threats Saturday of what Iran said would be an "obliterating" war over Hezbollah.

With the stalled talks in mind, American and European diplomats and other officials are delivering warnings to Hezbollah — which is far stronger than Hamas but seen as overconfident — about taking on the military might of Israel. *—AP*

RUSSIA ATTACKS

7 killed after Russian missiles hit Ukraine town

KYIV, 30 JUNE

Russian missiles slammed into a town in southern Ukraine, killing seven civilians, including children, and wounding dozens more, local authorities reported.

Ukrainian officials published photos of bodies stretched out under picnic blankets in a park in Vilniansk, and deep craters in the blackened earth next to the charred, twisted remains of a building.

Around 36 were wounded in Saturday evening's attack, authorities said, and declared a day of mourning Sunday. Vilniansk is in Zaporizhzhia region, less than 30 kilometers (20 miles) from the local capital and north of the front lines, as Russian forces continue to occupy part of the province.

Local Governor Ivan Fedorov said that three children were among the dead and nine more were wounded.

In a separate Telegram post hours earlier, Fedorov said that the strike damaged a shop, residential buildings, and an unspecified "critical infrastructure" facility in Vilniansk, which had a population of around 14,300 prior to Russia's all-out invasion of Ukraine in February 2022.

In the aftermath of the Vilniansk attack, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy called on Kyiv's Western partners to bolster its air defenses and long -range munitions to deter Russian attacks. In Ukraine's war-torn eastern Donetsk region, eight civilians died and 14 more suffered wounds on Saturday and overnight, according to local Governor Vadym Filashkin, as near-daily shelling continues in much of the province. Shelling also wounded one civilian and wounded five more over the same period in the southern Kherson region, its governor, Oleksandr Prokudin, reported on Telegram. *—AP*

Around 36 people were wounded on Saturday *PHOTO: PTI*

PAK PREZ GIVES NOD TO NEW FINANCE BILL

ISLAMABAD, 30 JUNE

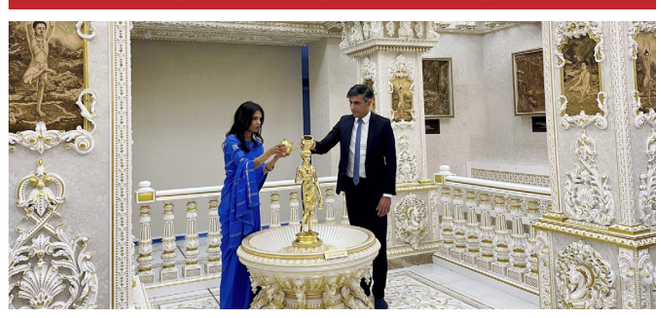
Pakistan President Asif Ali Zardari on Sunday gave his assent to the government's tax-heavy Finance Bill 2024, which drew sharp criticism from the Opposition which labelled it as an IMF-driven document that was harmful to the public for the new fiscal year, according to a media report.

Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb presented the budget in the National Assembly on 12 June, drawing sharp criticism from the opposition parties, especially jailed former premier Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), as well as coalition ally Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) led by former foreign minister Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari.

On Friday, Parliament passed the Pakistani Rs 18,877 billion budget for the fiscal year 2024-25, detailing the expenditures and income of the government.

The Opposition parties, mainly parliamentarians backed by currently incarcerated former premier Khan, had rejected the budget, saying it would be highly inflationary. *—PTI*

CAMPAIGN TRAILS



British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and wife Akshata Murty at the iconic BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir in London, ahead of the 4 July general election on Sunday *PHOTO: PTI*

18 dead in suicide bomb attacks in Nigeria's Borno

BORNO, 30 JUNE

Bomb blasts in Nigeria's northeast Borno state killed at least 18 people and injured 48 others, CNN reported, quoting the state's emergency services. The first blast hit a wedding ceremony around 3pm local time on Saturday, followed by another at General Hospital Gwoza and a third at a funeral, CNN reported.

According to the head of the local state emergency management agency, the attacks were carried out by suspected suicide bombers.

WION, citing a report by AFP, reported that a state police spokesperson said in one of the three blasts in Gwoza, a woman with a baby strapped to her back detonated explosives in the middle of a wedding ceremony.

The female suicide bombers also targeted a hospital in the same town and carried out another attack at the funeral for victims of the wedding blast, WION reported, citing AFP. "The degree of injuries ranges from abdominal ruptures, skull fractures, and limb fractures," Saidu said, as quoted by Reuters.

As per AFP, Saidu said 19 people who had been "seriously injured" were rushed to the regional capital Maiduguri, while 23 people are awaiting evacuation.

The Nigerian town, which lies across the border from Cameroon, has been witnessing violence for more than a decade.

Boko Haram had seized Gwoza in 2014, but it was retaken by the Nigerian military with help from Chadian forces the year after *—ANI*

PHOTO: ANI

WHO ARE NIGERIA'S BOKO HARAM

Boko Haram is an Islamic sectarian movement founded in 2002 by a terrorist Muhammed Yusuf in Nigeria. The group was formed with the intention to uproot corruption in Nigeria which it blamed on Western influences. The group aimed to impose the Islamic law. *—Agencies*

NY officer fatally shoots 13-year-old to death

NEW YORK, 30 JUNE

A 13-year-old boy was shot and killed by a police officer in Utica, New York, after a foot chase Friday night, according to police.

The incident happened in in the city about 400km northwest of Manhattan stopped two youths a little after 10 pm in connection with an armed robbery investigation, police said. The youths matched the descriptions of the robbery suspects .

The body camera video released by police captures an officer saying he needs to pat them down to ensure they don't have any weapons in their possession. Immediately one of the two — the deceased identified by police as Nyah Mway — runs who is later shot. *—AP*

PHOTO: X/@RONKLOPFANSTEIN

Pak, Iraq deport over 13K migrants back to Afg

ISLAMABAD, 30 JUNE

As many as 13,447 Afghan migrants were expelled from Iran and Pakistan last week, The Khaama Press reported. According to the Taliban-led ministry, of the total refugees, 10,225 were deported from Iran and 3,222 from Pakistan, with women and children among those forcibly returned, The Khaama Press reported.

The ministry detailed that Afghan migrants have returned to Afghanistan via border crossings such as Torghundi, Spin Boldak, Islam Qala, and the Friendship Bridge. Some deported migrants alleged that despite possessing valid residency documents, they were detained by police and were forcibly returned to Afghanistan. Many Afghan migrants have documented instances of mistreatment by Iranian police in their camps.

Pakistan's Defense Minister, Khawaja Asif had announced intentions to enforce international laws strictly at its borders with Afghanistan. The minister emphasized serious measures to prevent undocumented Afghans from crossing back and forth through the borders.

Afghanistan faces a dire humanitarian crisis as the The situation highlights ongoing human rights violations and challenges in protecting the rights and safety of Afghan refugees. *—ANI*

- Some migrants alleged that despite possessing valid residency documents, they were detained by police and were forcibly returned to Afghanistan

FATHERS TAKE RESPONSIBILITIES

Divorce boosts gender equality in Sweden

STOCKHOLM, 30 JUNE

Single mothers are one of the most vulnerable groups in societies around the world. In Sweden, the number of women with these care responsibilities has nearly halved over the past two decades. In a new study, published in the journal Social Forces, the researchers have hypothesised that the effect of such union dissolution may lead to more gender equality than when children went to live only with their mothers.

Ultimately, 50:50 residence requires fathers to take full care responsibility for the child half of the time — something few partnered fathers do. So it could push parents into a more egalitarian division of care work.

In Sweden, divorce has led to an increase in fathers' share of days off work for care. We conclude that whereas divorces have for decades been slowing the gender revolution in Sweden — with mothers traditionally shouldering all the responsibility — they are now accelerating it.

Opposite-sex couples in Sweden, and more broadly across the world, tend to fall into a manager-helper dynamics, in which the mother takes on the full administrative and mental workload and only delegates specific tasks for the father to fulfil. This is a dynamic that over time seems inevitable and impossible to break.

But 50:50 living arrangements turn this kind of dynamic on its head. Because it is no longer possible to take on these heavily gendered roles – the mother cannot plan her ex's household and the father cannot wait for it to happen — 50:50 living arrangements seem to show the way to a more gender-equal division of labour in general.

In several family-related changes — including a rise in divorce and fathers being more involved in childcare — Sweden has been the forerunner in trends later observed throughout Europe and North America.

—Courtesy, The Conversation

Sweden has been the forerunner in a rise in divorce and fathers are now being more involved in childcare *PHOTO: X/@CONVERSATIONUK*

PHOTO: PTI

Gujarat's Mamata Machinery files IPO with SEBI

NEW DELHI, 30 June

Packaging equipment manufacturer Mamata Machinery Ltd has filed preliminary papers with capital markets regulator Sebi to float an initial public offering (IPO). The Gujarat-based company's initial share sale is entirely an offer for sale (OFS) of 73.82 lakh equity shares by promoters, according to the draft red herring prospectus (DRHP). Those selling shares under the OFS are Mahendra Patel, Nayana Patel, Bhagvati Patel, Mamata Group Corporate Services LLP, and Mamata Management Services LLP. Since it's an OFS, the company will not receive any proceeds from the public issue. As of May 2024, the company installed over 4,500 machines in 75 countries around the world. *—PTI*

M'rashtra's power utility tender faces regulatory scrutiny

MUMBAI, 30 June

Maharashtra State Electricity Distribution Company Ltd's (MSEDCL) 6,600 MW tender for long-term power procurement has come under the security of Maharashtra Electricity Regulatory Commission (MERC). In response to an application filed by the state power utility MSEDCL to seek approval for deviation in the standard bidding documents, the MERC has questioned the state power utility why the approval was not sought before initiating the bidding process, according to the regulator's 25 June order. . According to an industry source, projects of this scale would require an investment of around Rs 40,000 crore. MSEDCL has been given 7 days to file submission on the queries raised by the MERC. The next date of hearing is on 2 July. *—PTI*

Punjab & Sind bank plans to raise Rs 2,000 cr via QIP

NEW DELHI, 30 JUNE

State-owned Punjab & Sind Bank plans to raise Rs 2,000 crore in the second half of this fiscal via Qualified Institutional Placement (QIP) to fund business growth. The QIP would help improve the Capital Adequacy Ratio of the bank, he said. The bank's capital adequacy ratio stood at 17.10 per cent at the end of March 2024. Besides, it would help bring down the government's holding in the bank. The government of India holds a 98.25 per cent stake in Punjab & Sind Bank. The bank also started demat services through wealth-tech partner Fisdom, which allows its customers to make investments in the equity market and purchase mutual funds. *—PTI*

UFO Moviez launch new platform for advertisers

NEW DELHI, 30 JUNE

India's leading in-cinema advertising player UFO Moviez on Sunday announced the launch of a new web-based platform for advertisers which will provide data-driven insights to plan and evaluate ad campaigns. Leveraging the latest technology and data analysis, the new ProCAT platform will empower in-cinema advertisers to craft highly targeted and effective campaigns that resonate with their target audience, UFO Moviez said in a statement. It will help in campaign planning with accurate knowledge of movie performance, aiding advertisers to measure audience at theatres and will assess campaign return on investment (ROI). UFO Moviez expects a robust 15-20 per cent CAGR over the next three years on the back of expanding screen counts nationwide. *—PTI*

AI Express union alleges unfair labour practices

Union claims chargesheets against crew were issued unfairly

NEW DELHI, 30 JUNE

Air India Express' cabin crew union has alleged unfair labour practices by the airline, including in issuance of chargesheets to its members, and sought the intervention of the labour commissioner to resolve the issues.

The Air India Express Employees Union (AIXEU), which is affiliated with the Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh, has written a letter to the Chief Labour Commissioner (Central) in this regard.

The communication also comes at a time when conciliation proceedings are going on before the CLC (C) on the disputes between the cabin crew members and the airline management.

The union has alleged that the management is adopting various measures that are not conducive to creating good industrial relations.

Air India Express has not responsed to the claims PHOTO: ANI

There was no comment from Air India Express.

Among other issues, the union has claimed that charge sheets have been issued to the cabin crew who had availed sick leave from 6 to 8 May and that enquiry is being initiated against selected union members.

On 7 May, around 200 cabin crew members of Tata Group-owned Air India Express went on strike to protest against the

- The union has alleged that the management is adopting various measures that are not conducive to creating good industrial relations

alleged mismanagement at the airline, resulting in the cancellation of hundreds of flights.

Consequently, the airline management terminated the services of 25 cabin crew members and warned the others to join work or else face the same action.

In the letter on 28 June, the union claimed that the issues had occurred "due to the monopoly and adamancy behaviour of the management" and sought the intervention of the CLC (C). *—PTI*

RELIANCE WINS BIG

9 of 10 top firms' Mcap jumps to Rs 2.89 lakh crore

NEW DELHI, 30 JUNE

Nine of the top-10 most valued firms together added Rs 2,89,699.42 crore in market valuation last week, with Reliance Industries emerging as the biggest gainer, in line with a rally in equities.

Last week, the BSE benchmark jumped 1,822.83 points or 2.36 per cent.

The BSE Sensex recorded the best monthly gain in June by climbing 7.14 per cent. The Sensex breached the historic 79,000 mark on Thursday.

While Reliance Industries, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, Bharti Airtel, State Bank of India, Infosys, Hindustan Unilever and ITC were the gainers, Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) emerged as the laggard.

The market capitalisation (mcap) of Reliance Industries jumped Rs 1,52,264.63 crore to Rs 21,18,951.20 crore. The mcap of ICICI Bank soared Rs 30,286.99 crore to Rs 8,44,201.88 crore and that of Bharti Airtel surged Rs 18,267.7 crore to Rs 8,22,530.35 crore.

PHOTO: FREEPIK

The market valuation of Infosys climbed Rs 14,656.3 crore to Rs 6,50,602.10 crore and that of HDFC Bank zoomed Rs 13,808.74 crore to Rs 12,80,865.43 crore.

State Bank of India's valuation rallied Rs 11,111.14 crore to Rs 7,57,565.68 crore.

The mcap of Hindustan Unilever went up by Rs 7,953.37 crore to Rs 5,81,570.83 crore and that of ITC climbed Rs 6,616.91 crore to Rs 5,30,475.82 crore.

However, the valuation of LIC tumbled Rs 22,042.61 crore to Rs 6,25,573.90 crore.

Reliance Industries remained the most valued firm, followed by TCS, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, Bharti Airtel, State Bank of India, Infosys, LIC, Hindustan Unilever and ITC. *— PTI*

Macroeconomic data, global trends to drive markets this week

NEW DELHI, 30 JUNE

Domestic macroeconomic data announcements, global trends and trading activity of foreign investors would guide market sentiments this week, analysts said. After a record rally, markets may face volatile trends this week amid elevated valuations and investors would also keep a track of global oil benchmark Brent crude and rupee-dollar movement for further cues. "Potential volatility in the stock market is anticipated this week. Elevated valuations remain a concern, with investors now focusing on monsoon progress and its impact on the rural economy. The upcoming Union Budget in July has become the next focal point, with high expectations for growth-oriented policies," said Pravesh Gour, Senior Technical Analyst, Swastika Investmart Ltd. As the new month begins, market participants will closely watch auto sales data to start with. *—PTI*

FPIs invest Rs 26,565 cr in Indian equities

NEW DELHI, 30 JUNE

After two months of net outflow, foreign investors turned buyers in June, infusing Rs 26,565 crore in Indian equities, driven by political stability and a sharp rebound in markets.

Looking ahead, attention will gradually shift towards the budget and Q1 FY25 earnings, which could determine the sustainability of FPI flows, Vipul Bhowar, Director, Listed Investments, Waterfield Advisors, said.

According to the data with the depositories, foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) have made a net infusion of Rs 26,565 crore in equities this month.

This came following a net outflow of Rs 25,586 crore in May on poll jitters and over Rs 8,700 crore in April on concerns over a tweak in India's tax treaty with Mauritius and a sustained rise in US bond yields.

Before that, FPIs made a net investment of Rs 35,098 crore in March and Rs 1,539 crore in

PHOTO: UNSPLASH

February, while they took out Rs 25,743 crore in January.

The net outflow now stood at Rs 3,200 crore in the month, data with the depositories showed.

However, the FPI buying has been focused on a few specific stocks rather than being widespread across the market or sectors. This is because Indian equities are still considered overvalued by FPIs, Waterfield Advisors' Bhowar said.

Additionally, FPIs invested Rs 14,955 crore in the debt market in June. With this, FPIs' investment in the debt market reached Rs 68,624 crore in 2024 so far.

—PTI

TO OVERTAKE JAPAN

India to be 3rd biggest mkt for Sony in 2 yrs

NEW DELHI, 30 JUNE

Japanese consumer electronics giant Sony expects India to overtake home market and become the company's third largest market globally in the next couple of years with its revenue from the country reaching Rs 10,000 crore.

Sony India Managing Director Sunil Nayyar said the company clocked a revenue of Rs 6,353 crore in 2022-23 in the country and is betting on the premium television segment besides its audio and imaging products to drive the growth.

According to him, Sony India is also betting big on the fast growth of the gaming segment and imaging business.

"We have travelled a long way. If I go 10 years back, we were quite behind the globe, but now, we are a close number four as a single country business across the globe, which means in a couple of years, maybe we can be number three and to remain in the top three in future I think should be a good position to stay as a Sony company around the globe," Nayyar told PTI in an interview.

At present, the US, China and Japan are the top three markets for Sony globally, followed by India.

He said Sony's bullishness over India "has to do with the country's growth as well".

In terms of the growth of the size of the business, he said, "I also feel that maybe a couple of years down the line, we should be hitting the milestone of (Rs) 100 billion."

Sharing how the company has grown over the years, he said, "We registered a growth of approximately 20 per cent in 2023-24 and this growth has continued for the last couple of years. So I think that we are on a good growth trajectory. *—PTI*

EPFO gross new members addition dips 4% to 1.09 cr in 2023-24: Report

NEW DELHI, 30 JUNE

Retirement fund body EPFO's gross new subscribers addition declined by over 4 per cent to 1.09 crore in 2023-24 compared to a year ago, as per a report by Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MoSPI).

According to the report 'Payroll Reporting in India: An Employment Perspective – January to April, 2024', the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) recorded 1,09,93,119 gross addition of new members in 2023-24 compared to 1,14,98,453 in 2022-23.

The gross addition of new members was affected due to the pandemic and declined from 1,10,40,683 in 2019-20 to 85,48,898 in 2020-21. It bounced back to 1,08,65,063 in 2021-22.

The Centre as well as states had imposed lockdown restrictions in 2020 and 2021 to curb the spread of deadly coronavirus in the country, which had hit economic activities as well as employment.

Gross addition of members was affected due to pandemic PHOTO: PTI

The numbers of subscribers are from various sources and there are elements of overlap. Therefore, estimates from various sources are not additive,.

The report also showed that the gross addition of members of Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) also dipped to 1,67,60,672 in 2023-24 from 1,67,73,023 in 2022-23.

However, according to the report, new addition of subscribers increased under NPS to 9,37,020 in 2023-24. *—PTI*

'AFTER EUROPE, INDIA MOST IMPORTANT MARKET FOR SKODA'

PRAGUE, 30 JUNE

Czech car maker Skoda is lining up new models, expanding sales network and also looking to forge partnerships to scale up business in India, the most important market for the brand outside Europe, according to global CEO Klaus Zellmer.

The company, which currently sells models like Kushaq and Slavia in the country, aims to drive in an all-new compact SUV next year hoping to almost double its sales volume in the market.

India is crucial to the growth strategy of Skoda Auto as the automaker brings its broadest and most up to date product portfolio ever to customers, Zellmer said. The automaker also aims to make India an export hub. *—PTI*

Indian economy poised for stable high growth: RBI

NEW DELHI, 30 JUNE

Indian economy is poised for potentially a stable high growth phase and it is also in a strong position in the context of significant risks that the country is facing, RBI's monetary policy committee member Shashanka Bhide said on Sunday.

Bhide further said with the growth of income that would support domestic demand and additions to production or supply capacity reflected by high levels of investment spending in the last couple of years, domestic economic activity is expected to sustain its momentum.

The current official estimate of GDP growth in 2023-24 is 8.2 per cent, accelerating from 7 per cent in the preceding year.

Earlier this month, the Reserve Bank of India pegged the GDP growth rate for FY25 at 7.2 per cent.

In its latest bi-monthly review earlier this month, the six-member monetary policy committee (MPC) of Reserve Bank of India left the key interest rate (repo rate) unchanged for the eighth time in a row at 6.5 per cent.

The RBI has projected Consumer Price Index (CPI)-based retail inflation at 4.5 per cent for FY25 with 4.9 per cent in Q1 (April-June), 3.8 per cent in Q2, 4.6 per cent in Q3, and 4.5 per cent in Q4.

Retail inflation was 4.75 per cent in May.

The RBI, which has been mandated to ensure inflation remains at 4 per cent (with margin of 2 per cent on either side), mainly factors in CPI while arriving at its monetary policy. *—PTI*

Mumbai clocks 12% growth in property booking in June

MUMBAI, 30 JUNE

The registration of properties in the Mumbai municipal region rose 12 per cent annually in June to 11,575 units on better demand for housing assets, according to Knight Frank.

Mumbai city (area under Bombay Municipal Corporation jurisdiction) saw registration of 11,575 units in June against 10,319 units in the same month last year, as per the data compiled by real estate consultant Knight Frank from the Maharashtra government portal.

However, the number of registrations in June was lower than in May, when 12,000 units were registered.

The bulk of the registration is for housing properties.

Strong buyer confidence has kept property registrations in Mumbai above the 10,000 mark for the first six months of the 2024 calendar year.

PHOTO: PTI

In June 2024, Mumbai experienced the highest number of property registrations for any June month in the past 12 years, the consultant said.

Despite higher property prices, he said home registrations have maintained their momentum, reflecting the market's strong appetite and confidence buyers have in the country's economic trajectory.

Knight Frank attributed this surge to rising economic prosperity and a favourable sentiment towards homeownership. *—PTI*

EDUCATION TAKES BACKSEAT

Indian weddings drive Rs 10L cr industry

NEW DELHI, 30 JUNE

The Indian wedding industry size of approximately Rs 10 lakh crore (USD 130 billion) is second only to food and grocery, with an average Indian spending twice on marriage ceremony than education.

India sees 80 lakh to 1 crore weddings annually compared to 70-80 lakh in China and 20-25 lakh in the US. "The Indian wedding industry is nearly double the size of the industry in the US (USD 70 billion), albeit smaller than China (USD 170 billion)," brokerage Jefferies said.

Weddings in India are elaborate and characterised by a range of ceremonies and spending. The industry spurs consumption in categories like jewellery and apparel and indirectly benefits autos and electronics. Despite political efforts to curb, luxury weddings at exotic locations continue to showcase opulence.

The Indian wedding industry is nearly double the size of the industry in the US PHOTO: FREEPIK

Indian weddings are multi-day and multi-event celebrations, ranging from simple to ultra-lavish. The region, religion and economic background play an important role at several levels.

The Hindu calendar, which follows the lunisolar system, adds to the complexity, as weddings solemnise only on auspicious days in specific months, which changes every year, according to the report.

Exotic domestic and international locations, luxurious accommodations, lavish catering with menus curated by Michelin star chefs and performances by professional artists and celebrities, luxury Indian weddings have to be experienced to be understood.

"The wedding industry also indirectly fuels various sectors, such as automobiles, consumer electronics, paints etc. These industries witness a spike in demand around the wedding season, and while difficult to quantify the full impact, industry players meticulously track wedding dates to align marketing strategies and inventory management."

Bridal lehengas in the luxury segment include heavy intricate work and can even weigh 10 kgs in some cases. Italian Luxury Brand Bvlgari launched its first India-only jewellery piece, Mangalsutra, in 2021. *—PTI*

PHOTO: PTI

Rohit tastes Barbados pitch soil after T20 World Cup

BRIDGETOWN, 30 JUNE

India skipper Rohit Sharma was full of emotions after the title-clinching seven-run win over South Africa in the T20 World Cup final in Barbados on Saturday. Just after securing the title, Rohit patted multiple times on the ground and was also seen eating the soil of Kensington Oval's pitch later as Indian players continued their celebrations on the ground. The official 'X' account of Wimbledon shared pictures of Rohit and Novak Djokovic in similar action, drawing similarity between the two greats of their respective sports.—*PTI*

PHOTO: PTI

Praggnanandhaa beats Giri, Gukesh draws with Alireza

BUCHAREST, 30 JUNE

SAfter missing out on opportunities to win, Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa finally broke through and scored a hard-earned victory over Dutchman Anish Giri in the fourth round of the Superbet Classic chess tournament here. World Championship challenger D Gukesh, playing with black, had little trouble holding off Firouzja Alireza of France to a draw on a day when Fabiano Caruana scored his second victory in the tournament at the expense of wild-card Deac Bogdan-Daniel of Romania. Caruana became the sole leader and also got back to number two in live world rankings. —*PTI*

PHOTO: PTI

Former India midfielder Bhupinder dies

SURAT, 30 JUNE

Former India midfielder Bhupinder Singh Rawat, who played in the 1969 Merdeka Cup in Malaysia died after a brief illness, the All India Football Federation (AIFF) stated. He was 85 and is survived by his wife, one son, and daughter. A darling of the crowd for his speed and ability to cut through the rival defense despite his diminutive figure, Rawat was nicknamed "Scooter" by the fans. "Bhupinder Singh Rawat was a classy winger and also a prolific scorer, who served the game with distinction," the AIFF president Kalyan Chaubey said in his condolence message. —*PTI*

Tvesa and Vani tied for fourth in Swiss Ladies Open golf

ROTKREUZ, 30 JUNE

Tvesa Malik and Vani Kapoor weretied for fourth after two rounds at the VP Bank Swiss Ladies Open. Tvesa addeda second straight 3-under 68 to go 6-under for two days, while Vani, who shot66 on the first day, scored 1-under 70 on the second to get to a similar6-under total. Vani and Tvesa at 6-under were two behind FatimaFernandez Cano of Spain (68-66) at 8-under. Another Indian who cut was RidhimaDilawari (72-69). Behind Cano, two players were tied for second at7-under with Swede Sara Kjelker (66) and Kristyna Napoleava (68). Tvesa andVani were tied for fourth alongside Emily Penttila (66) and Luna Sobron Gomes(66) at 6-under 136 for 36 holes. RidhimaDilawari, who had four birdies in her first six holes finished with 69 followingthree bogeys.—*AP*

KOI 'RO-KO' NA

Rohit & Kohli stay together till the end

Kohli and Rohit complement each other - in dejection, triumph and now T20I retirement

BRIDGETOWN, 30 JUNE

Just like Gavaskar lifting Kapil's hands on the Lord's balcony on 25 June 1983, is a memory for fans of a certain vintage, the 'Ro-Ko' bear hug will make the millennials shed that tear accumulated at the corner of their eyes.

As characters, they are like chalk and cheese just as any 'vada pao' loving Mumbaikar and a 'chhole-bhature' craving Delhiite are expected to be.

But for every graceful cover drive, there is always a pull shot executed with panache, and that's why Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma, for the last decade and a half, have complemented each other -- in dejection, triumph and now in T20 International retirement.

Together, they make the word contrast come alive -- Kohli bringing in the darker shades with his dogged intensity in pursuit of excellence and Rohit with those pastel shades which manifest calm amid the storm.

India's Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma carry the winners' trophy as they celebrate after India won the ICC Men's T20 World Cup final

PHOTO: X / @T20WORLDCUP

Their reactions immediately after the T20 World Cup triumph painted a thousand pictures. Rohit, first on his haunches and then lying on the ground, had tear-filled eyes throughout.

Kohli, on the other hand, quietly walked back towards the dressing room, trying hard to conceal the emotions that he was feeling. He was trying to soak in the festivities but was slightly detached too.

However, there was one common thread that continued to bind them -- genuine respect for each other's craft and achievements.

And that's one reason why they respect each other's space. Rohit very well knew that Kohli had decided to call it quits from the format irrespective of the result.

As his colleague of nearly 16 years declared his decision at the post-match presentation, the skipper allowed him the stage and the moment without speaking a word about his plans.

"When he first came into the scene, sab bolte the ek player aaya Rohit Sharma. Main sochta tha young player toh hum bhi hain, aisa kaunsa player hai bhai ki koi humari baat nahi karta. Phir T20 World Cup mein uska innings dekha South Africa ke saath and I slumped on my sofa. Aaj ke baad choop rahna, I told myself,"

He did it in his inimitable style at the press conference answering what was one of the last questions of the interaction. Kohli seemed to have decided it much in advance.

"This was an open secret, it's time for the next generation to take over.

Win or lose, I was going to announce it," just like his preparation before a big inning, the legend had done his homework and hence the timing was immaculate.

When Rohit was asked about his retirement, his answer was typically him, straight shot and in the moment.

"I never thought that I would retire from T20s. But the situation is such, I thought it was the perfect situation for me. Nothing better than winning the cup and saying goodbye," the skipper said, his instinctive nature shining through for the umpteenth time.

- BCCI President Roger Binny says it will take another two to three years for the Indian T20 team to "come into its own" again given the void that Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma's international retirement from the format will create.

A lot was said by people who don't even know me one percent: Hardik Pandya

Hardik Pandya believes in leading his life with a lot of grace and he has no issues with people who don't know him one percent but said a lot about him in the middle of his disappointing campaign as Mumbai Indians captain in the IPL.

Hardik Pandya

PHOTO: X / @T20WORLDCUP

Having replaced Rohit Sharma as Mumbai Indians captain, Hardik was the subject of ridicule and was booed by fans of his team in the IPL. Mumbai could not qualify for the playoffs and his performance as captain and player was also questioned.

However, he silenced his critics with an all-round show in the T20 World Cup.

"I believe in grace. A lot was said by people who don't even know me one percent as a person. People have spoken, no issues but I have always believed in life that you never respond with words, circumstances can respond.

"Even difficult times, they don't last forever. It is important to be graceful, whether you win or lose.

"It is time for fans and everyone else to learn that (to be graceful). We need to find better ways to conduct ourselves. —*PTI*

A memory of a lifetime for me: Rahul Dravid

BRIDGETOWN, 30 JUNE

The great Rahul Dravid was not his usual restrained self after India's T20 World Cup glory and couldn't thank his wards enough for helping him live what he "wasn't lucky as a player" to experience the heady feeling of being a world champion. With head coach Dravid watching the action from the dugout, skipper Rohit Sharma marshalled his resources beautifully as India held their nerve to eke out a seven-run victory over South Africa in a thrilling finale and win the T20 World Cup to end an 11-year ICC title drought. —*PTI*

SA skipper Markram on WC heartbreak: Feel the sting

BRIDGETOWN, 30 JUNE

A devastated South African skipper Aiden Markram is hopeful that at some point he will be able to see the good in his team's T20 World Cup campaign but for now, all he feels is a "sting" which, he hopes, will ensure a "fire in the belly for next time". South Africa needed 30 off 30 balls in a chase of 176 against India but fell short by seven runs despite Heinrich Klaasen's awe-inspiring 27-ball 52 in the see-saw summit clash here on Saturday. —*PTI*

EURO 2024

Kai's penalty and Jamal's strike help hosts reach quarter-finals

DORTMUND, 30 JUNE

Referee Michael Oliver halted the Round of 16 clash in the first half as a thunderstorm started in Dortmund.

A blast of thunder was heard around the stadium and the players were soon taken off the field before rain and hail started falling at the Westfalenstadion.

Julian Nagelsmann is riding his luck as Germany's head coach. It's taken him to the quarterfinals of Euro 2024, but sooner or later, he will need more than good fortune to take the host nation much further in the competition.

It needed a ferocious thunderstorm the play was suspended for 22 minutes in the first half because of lightning and incessant rain in Dortmund and two VAR decisions in Germany's favour to knock Denmark out of their stride in a round-of-16 tie that

Jamal Musiala and Kai Havertz

PHOTO: X / EUFA.COM

Nagelsmann's team ultimately won 2-0 thanks to a Kai Havertz penalty and a Jamal Musiala solo goal. Had the Danes enjoyed some of Nagelsmann's luck and had one, or even both, of the VAR decisions gone their way, Germany could have been sent packing from their party and the recriminations would already be underway.

"We were favourites, that makes it difficult, and we had so many adversities to overcome," Nagelsmann said after the match. "They did that and it makes me proud. The players are getting rid of their old memory sticks and remembering how good they are.

—*AP*

BAJC: India lose 1-4 to Indonesia in final

YOGYAKARTA, 30 JUNE

India went down 1-4 to Indonesia here on Sunday to finish second in Group C and will now face Malaysia in the quarterfinals of the Badminton Asia Junior Mixed Team Championship.

Having already qualified for the knockout stage, India changed their entire line-up for the last group match against Indonesia as they rested Tanvi Sharma in girls' singles and played fresh mixed and men's doubles pairs.

Dhruv Negi was given the responsibility to play the boy's singles rubber.Navya Kanderi, who played the girls singles instead of Tanvi, was the only player to earn a point as India went down 1-4 despite running the hosts close in all the matches.

The mixed doubles combination of Vansh Dev and Shravani Walekar lost the opening match against

Tanvi Sharma

PHOTO: PTI

Taufik Aderya and Clairine Mulia 14-21, 16-21 before Negi's over an hour fight against Bueno Oktora ended with a 14-21, 21-11, 11-21 scoreline.The fate of the tie was decided once Bhargav Ram Arigela and Vishwa Tej Gobburu lost the boys' doubles 17-21, 15-21 against Anselmus Prasetya and Pulung Ramadhan.

Navya then put India on the scoreboard with a 21-19, 21-19 win over Mutiara Puspitasari. W—*PTI*

Pennington and Smith

PHOTO: PTI

Smith, Dillon win first England Test call-ups

LONDON, 30 JUNE

England have named a 14-member strong squad for the first two matches of the three-match Test series against West Indies, starting at Lord's on 10 July.

England have handed maiden Test call-ups to Nottinghamshire seamer Dillon Pennington and Surrey batter Jamie Smith, who will also be available to keep wicket.

Both have been standout performers in the County Championship Division One this season. Surrey seamer Gus Atkinson is the only other uncapped player. He was part of the squad for the Test tour of India earlier this year.

Pennington, 25, who joined Nottinghamshire this year from Worcestershire, has been showing his promise with the ball, taking 29 Championship wickets at an average of 23.03 in the top flight.

It came as a surprise as England dropped experienced wicketkeeper-batter Jonny Bairstow, who recently earned his 100th Test cap against India in March, will be replaced by young debutant Jamie Smith.

The attacking right-hand batter Smith has been in spectacular form this campaign, helping Surrey consolidate their top spot in Division One, and has scored 507 runs at an average of 76.93. He is set to be rewarded with his Test debut next week at Lord's and add to his England ODI credentials when he debuted last summer against Ireland.

—*PTI*

SA vs India: Luus makes India toil despite a follow-on

CHENNAI, 30 JUNE

Top-order batter Sune Luus struck a fine century as South Africa fought their way to 232 for two in the second innings after India enforced the follow-on, courtesy spinner Sneh Rana's exemplary eight-wicket burst in the visitors' first innings on Day 3 of the one-off women's Test here on Sunday.

South Africa still trails India by 105 runs, after they were bundled out for 266 in the first innings chasing India's 603 for six. Off-spinner Sneh Rana's deadly effort of eight for 77 hastened their collapse.

However, SA found some fights in their second essay through Luus (109, 203b, 18x4) and skipper Laura Wolvaardt (93 batting, 252b, 12x4).

Resuming at the overnight score of 236 for four, Marizanne Kapp (74) and Nadine de Klerk (39) could not sustain the momentum as the former soon fell to Rana.

Kapp's wicket opened the floodgates as the Proteas were bowled out in the subsequent 17 runs. Rana and Deepti Sharma got the job done with ease. Rana's figures were the second-best in a Women's Test innings for India after record-holder Neetu David's eight for 53 against England in Jamshedpur in 1995.

Overall, Rana holds the third-best Test innings figures, with Australia's Ashleigh Gardner (eight for 66) preceding her.

Trailing by 337 runs, the Indians enforced follow-on as

Sune Luus

PHOTO: X / PROTEAS WOMEN

the South Africans suffered an early setback. Anneke Bosch was trapped leg-before for nine by Deepti with just 16 runs on the board.

The end seemed near for the South Africans then.

However, Wolvaardt and Luus joined forces to push the hosts on the back foot.

The visitors were 29 for one at the lunch break and they batted till the tea break without further damage to take SA to 124 for one.

In the post-tea session, when their partnership surpassed 138, it also became the highest stand for the tourists against India in Test cricket.

Meanwhile, Luus brought up her maiden Test century, as she became only the second South African to hit a Test ton against India after Mignon du Preez (102) in Mysore in 2014.

Eventually, Indian captain Harmanpreet Kaur broke the 190-run alliance, getting rid of Luus when the score was 206 for two. The dismissal brought Kapp together with the skipper and they batted out the remainder of the day. —*PTI*

LEGEND RETIRES

Ravindra Jadeja: A thoroughbred who found his course

NEW DELHI, 30 JUNE

In many ways, Ravindra Jadeja's run in the just-concluded World Cup, his last T20I assignment for India, summed up his whole career a perpetual less-than-equal partner of the star performers in the team.

In white-ball formats, the focus was always on Jasprit Bumrah and KulCha (Kuldeep Yadav and Yuzvendra Chahal), while in Tests Ravichandran Ashwin wore the armband of the lead spinner.

He never really grumbled over it or, as is the trend these days, never put out a cryptic one-line post on his social media accounts.

Even while bringing the curtains down on his T20I stint, Jadeja was in the shadows of the icons.

Perhaps, the 35-year-old all-rounder had already made up his mind, as reported by PTI on June 28, but knew that a retirement announcement alongside Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma would end up as

Ravindra Jadeja

PHOTO: PTI

a mere footnote.

In the Americas too, Jadeja was a part of India's eight matches, but his contribution was sparse – 35 runs and one wicket across 14 overs.

Jadeja too calls it quits from T20I format

Flamboyant India all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja announced his retirement from T20 Internationals on Sunday, joining his illustrious teammates Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma in bidding adieu to the format a day after winning the World Cup here.

India pipped South Africa by seven runs in the final here on Saturday to clinch their second T20 World Cup title. The triumph was followed by star batter Kohli and skipper Rohit announcing their retirement from T20Is, calling it the perfect time to pass the baton to the younger crop of players.

On Sunday, it was Jadeja's turn and the 35-year-old took to Instagram to announce his retirement from T20Is. He will continue to play ODIs and Tests."With a heart full of gratitude, I bid farewell to T20 internationals," Jadeja wrote underneath a picture of him holding the trophy."

Like a steadfast horse galloping with pride, I've always given my best for my country and will continue to do so in other formats," added Jadeja, who has a deep passion for horse riding, often spending time riding his mounts, Kesar, Dhanraj, and Ganga.

Born on December 6, 1988, in Jamnagar, Gujarat, Jadeja, who is affectionately nicknamed "Jaddu" and "Sir Jadeja", carved a niche for himself in the slam-bang world of T20 cricket.

—*PTI*